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AUGUST 25-SEPTEMBER 7, 2011 | **ISSUE 424** | FALL GETAWAYS

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Ross Mathews. Photo by Vincent Sandoval. Makeup by Nancy Silva.

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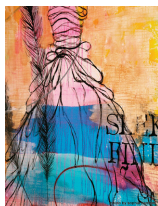
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ONE OF THE lesser-known (but probably predictable) aspects of my job at *Lavender* is catching up on old issues, literally and figuratively. When approached with an idea for a story, I have to run triage. What have we already said about it? What is the scuttlebutt and what is the nitty-gritty? Who's been covering it and what have they said? Where is the issue going? What good or harm might come of it? Have we given too much attention to it or not enough? Where should it go? When should it run? Who should write it? Is someone *pulling my leg*?

I have a well-thumbed stack of *Lavenders* at home for those times when I don't have the whole 1995-2011 office library at my fingertips. Odd hours of the day and night, I page through them to educate myself. I've always read *Lavender*, just not with quite the attention that should be paid the publication as by its editor. This issue, we've got the 25th Anniversary of Duluth-Superior Pride written by Angela Nichols in response to a mayday call I sent out at the last minute. Articles about fall getaways to Stillwater, Lake Pepin, and Duluth (with a special piece about the Olcott House) each show new aspects of old towns. Café Levain...we may have covered it in recent years, but the news is that Adam Vickerman's back. Wanda's State Fairy Guide is new and darned darling. And, we've got great photos of the community, the latest and greatest from the arts scene, and thoughtful commentary and witty remarks from our gallery of writers.

Then, we've got Target. Corporate giving. The boycott.

I reached for my stack of 26 issues and shuffled through them for the era involving the Emmer donation. A handful of covers ask the question, "Boycott Target?" Beyond the covers, the answers are hashed out. What a good exercise, to read the coverage—it helps me to get to know the writers, the topics, and the readers much, much better. Thoughtful Letters to the Editor, biting requests for more transparency, the grey between the black and the white. Plenty of anger and betrayal with a healthy dose of reality that, no, corporations are not necessarily our friends. But, what else?

When John mentioned that he had a piece about Target in the hopper, I was pleased to find out that it was about the efficacy of boycotting Target. When referring to story arcs in communications and publications, I appreciate the fact that we're coming to our



Ross Mathews. Photo by Vincent Sandoval. Makeup by Nancy Silva.

resolution with the question we raised over and over last year—"Boycott Target?"

I'm well aware of the "slacktivism" that runs rampant on social networking sites. Saying I'm for or against something—while not actually doing anything about it in my daily life—can be seen as a slacker's approach to activism. Effective? In some cases. Numbers count, when it's a sentiment or a petition. But, what happens with boycotting? When the click of the mouse isn't really the action required to constitute the actual movement or demonstration, is it effective? By joining the boycott, I am not boycotting. To boycott, I must abstain from making purchases. Right?

I'm not going to go around and survey folks about whether or not they boycotted Target, either by mouse clicks or by withheld credit card swipes. Some of us did, some of us didn't. Would the backlash have been felt so fiercely had there been no button to click to Boycott Target? If people hadn't withheld their business? What would have happened in a time without social networking? What do we need to know as we move forward toward Election 2012? What have we learned?

Was it a question that needed to be asked?

Those questions are an editorial outline for the year ahead of us. In this issue, to round out the discussion about the efficacy

of boycotting Target, Kaitlyn also asked the question of local non-profit organizations: "How do you prefer to receive donations? Does it matter if it's from the corporations, themselves, or their employee groups? What matters?" Next issue, we'll ask more of the large corporations in Minnesota and find out what they have to say.

It's good to ask, it's good to know. The shades of grey are deep and varied.

Let me know what you want us to ask. I'll put it through triage and see what we can do.

With thanks,  
Andy

#### End Notes:

"Roadtripping," as in "Roadtripping Lake Pepin," might not really be a word. I'm trying to turn it colloquial to get away with using it as much as I do.

We were a wee late in getting our issue to print because we've got the FIRST photos of Ross Mathews taken of him after losing 40 pounds. Please go online to [www.lavendermagazine.com](http://www.lavendermagazine.com) to read more of Bradley's interview with Ross (in which he talks about his weight loss) and see more photos of his stylish self hot off the camera. They were worth the wait.



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# Little: The New Big?

TOO MANY BIG THINGS lately. Government debt, government shutdown, end of the world-the sky is falling predictions. 2012 Presidential horror scripts. My *Newsweek* cover filled with a wild-eyed Michelle Bachmann.

Time to consider Little Things.

Take my knee. I recently underwent what I consider a Golden Years rite of passage: the total knee replacement. Most of my contemporaries, it seems, have either had, is about to have, or knows someone close who has had a new part installed. Live long enough and your body resembles a classic British MGTD – it'll run, but spends more quality time in the shop.

My own procedure went swimmingly—I was walking without assistance within a week, completing my rehab at a superb facility in nearby St. Louis Park (at the peak of July's Death Valley Days).

What caught my attention during that period were the numbers of elderly (some older than I) patients who were also having therapy sessions. Everyone had his or her own path to follow, and I was moved by the dignity and tenacity with which each labored to take

a step, to learn how to get about again in bath or kitchen settings, and how diligently spouses participated as well, practicing safety techniques to assist their partners upon their return home.

Significant too, the patience and empathy of the therapy staff, sharing the humor and determination of their clients as they strove to regain what they had lost for whatever reason, the victories of those who left to return home, the courage of those who soldiered on. I could not help but compare these small acts of courage to the strutting, bluff and bravado going in the "Big" scene during those same days as the country was brought to the brink of shutdown so that one side might proclaim itself the sole winner.

When I finally pulled out my *Newsweek* and took a closer look at Ms. Bachmann, I realized I was just witnessing another cheap shot in the choice of that photo. "Because we could" seems to be the prevailing motto these days, politically, socially, financially.

The world needs a time-out from Big. We need less bluff and bravado and a greater recognition and appreciation of the little steps filled with great courage it takes to heal. □

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# Interview with Ross Mathews

ROSS MATHEWS, the bubbly former intern from *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and current regular panelist on *Chelsea Lately*, arrives in Minneapolis September 10th to receive a Visibility Award at the Human Rights Campaign's 2011 Annual Twin Cities Gala Dinner. I chatted with Ross recently about his upcoming trip to Minneapolis and his ground-breaking television career.

## **You're coming to Minneapolis!**

I can't wait. I was there for Pride last summer and I just fell in love with the place. I'm thrilled because I've traveled all over the country for years with HRC hosting dinners for them. I love what they do and I'm friends with Joe Solmonese and his partner. I've been on Leno now for ten years and on *Chelsea* for I don't know how many years and this is an award they give people who are in the national public eye; celebrating LGBT issues and being a positive role model. I've seen so many other people get this award and I can't believe they're giving it to me! I'm so thrilled.

## **Why do you think visibility is so important for our community?**

Oh my gosh, it's like crazy, super, big time important! I grew up in a teeny farm town in Mount Vernon, Washington, and I was a little gay kid and I didn't know what it meant to grow up to be a big gay grown-up. I didn't know any gay people and back then I didn't see any gay people on TV. I didn't learn until I went to college that I could be a totally happy grown up, loud, proud, out gay person. It's a different world now, in part, not to toot my tooter, partly because people like me are on TV, out, loud and proud for a decade now.



Ross Mathews. Photo by Vincent Sandoval. Makeup by Nancy Silva.

## **Has the way people react to you on TV changed over the last ten years?**

I think it absolutely has changed. When I first started on *Leno* it was like a big W-T-F kinda thing, but now on *Chelsea* it's so celebrated. It's not only accepted, it's celebrated. And that's changed. It's different.

## **Have you been able to share more of your genuine self as opposed to the character of Ross the Intern?**

I don't think I was ever really a character as Ross the Intern. That was a kid who was still in college getting a shot to be on national television and interview the biggest stars in the world. That kind of excitement level was authentic, it wasn't anything that I was putting on. And still, when I do that today, I don't put anything on. It really is my genuine self. I have been able to evolve over the past decade and I think I've really broken some ground too doing it. What I love doing on *Chelsea*'s show is, you know, *Chelsea* doesn't edit anything. She doesn't want to know what I have to say until we're on stage. There are no rehearsals. It's just sort of like, Ross, bring your "A" game and bring your point of view and let's go. I love that. It's such a challenge.

## **What allows you to bring your "A" game?**

I have an incredible support system in my life. I have the best friends and all my friends are people who, the majority I made in middle school and high school and I'm

still totally B-F-Fs with. I have a partner. We've been together almost three years and have a really solid home life with two dogs. I garden. I think it's so important to have that stable family life and that comes from growing up with real people in a real town and not being like a Hollywood kid. To me, it's so important to have a stable home. If you don't have that, I don't think you can go and and fly as high you want to.

## **Do you have a message other than your own experiences that you're going to share with Minneapolis?**

I'm writing a book right now, sort of about my experiences, thus far, in life. Growing up in a small town and then navigating Hollywood. The theme that's been running through that is something I talk about on *Chelsea* a lot; what I've coined as "man-up." I think I always try to man-up. What I mean by that is, understanding you are what you are and you're going to have your flaws, but rather than heaping a lot of negativity on whatever makes you different or whatever makes you unique, really shine the light on that and use it to make you stand out, I think that's just something innately that I've done my entire life, totally on accident. I probably owe it to my mother, because she was effusive with her compliments, even when they were undeserved. I would love to spread that message. Like, come on, life is short you gotta love yourself. Get over it and let's keep movin' on to make a difference in the world. □





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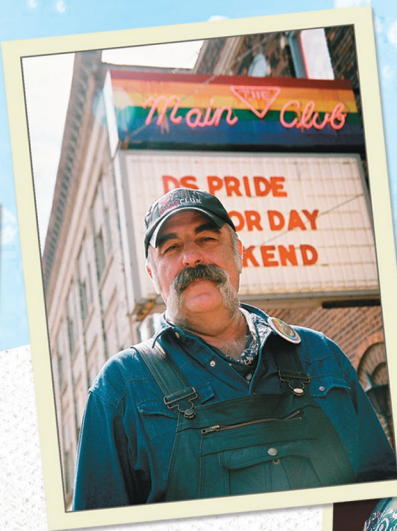
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# Duluth-Superior

# PRIDE

## 25th Anniversary



WHEN THE MAIN CLUB opened in 1983 in Superior, Wisconsin, owner Bob Jansen would host a picnic during June Pride weekend celebrating "Happy Homosapien Days," as people were abated to say the word "gay," recalls Jansen. A few years later, a Pride Picnic was hosted on the Lester River in Duluth by three men. "It was a nice sunny day with a potluck and a few beers," Jansen explained.

Next in memory is Jansen's interaction with a member of the "Minnesota Pride Committee." Jansen told one of its members that Duluth-Superior was going to have a Pride Festival. He was told, "You can't have Pride; we are having it in the Cities." Jansen said his reply was, "Watch us!"

This Labor Day Weekend marks the 25th Anniversary of Duluth-Superior Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Queer Allied and Intersex Pride Weekend; the weekend starts on Thursday. Over the years so much has changed. It has grown from a picnic on the Lester River to a full-blown regional festival at Bayfront Festival Park, the largest outdoor stage venue in the Twin Ports.

The four-day event includes a 5K run, the Duluth Mayor's Pride reception, command of the Vista King and Queen, the historic Depot's catered train ride up the North Shore, drag show fundraisers, a block party, worship service, art exhibit and poetry reading, a film festival, bonfire, jazz night, and the D-S Pride Parade in Superior, Wisconsin. Events bridge the Twin Ports, sharing the party across state lines along infamous Lake Superior, the largest freshwater body in the world.

In the distant past, we cannot forget the 1969 Stonewall Riots in Greenwich Village in New York City after one too many police raids at a gay bar, The Stonewall Inn. Patrons took the streets rioting, rolling police cars, and starting fires. A year later, the Riots were commemorated and as Pride was born, the festivities began to sprout around the globe. "It is rumored that [Duluth and Superior] police request to work the Pride Festival," explains Jesse (Dykhuis) Campbell, one of this year's Pride Committee Co-Chairs. "I feel a tremendous amount of love from our public figures...Pride reminds folks





Photos by Sophia Hantzes

about our history and builds a sense of community spirit that is felt months after the Pride season is over," she explains.

Dianna Hunter, another long-time member of the queer community of the Twin Ports remembers the first few Pride events in Loring Park in Minneapolis in the early 1970's. "The rallies were smaller than Duluth's present festival, and the parade was similar in size to the ones in the Twin Ports now," she said. Hunter, who was honored a few years ago with the "Dinosaur Award" for lifetime service, has enjoyed watching the events grow here over the years. "This forum [Pride] lets us celebrate our accomplishments. Like the people in every other social justice movement, we really need community and celebration as well as outrage and hard work," she explains. "We've come a long way, but we're still in a civil rights struggle," observes Hunter. Without such celebrations, she explained, it's easy to burn out.

The social impact on the local community seems almost tangible for Josh Miller, a now 6-year resident of Duluth. "I consider Duluth a very gay-friendly city," explains Miller. "By incorporating elements like the Mayor's endorsement through a Pride event, I believe that acceptance has grown over the years. A shrinking minority of bigotry is simply fading away," he said. Miller has friends from Canada who make an "annual pilgrimage" from Winnipeg to attend Duluth-Superior Pride.

The Duluth-Superior Pride Committee is usually comprised of about 20 people who organize, fundraise, and publicize the events. Campbell reports that the Committee adds and tweaks things based on feedback from attendees.

Miller's enthusiastic remarks are exactly what seem to draw peo-

ple to this particular Pride festival. According to him, "DS Pride is the most unique pride event in the entire country. Duluth and Superior have so much to offer as destinations for beauty, entertainment, and fun. When you marry that with the events of Pride weekend, it makes a perfect recipe for a truly unique experience." Miller continues, unable to hold back, "other cities enjoy park events with vendors.... how many Pride events include cruises, train parties, dinners, and an outdoor concert overlooking the largest inland port," he asks?

In fact, Out Magazine named it "The Hottest Small Town Pride" in 2005. As the popularity has grown, times keep changing. Allies, faith-based organizations, and rainbow families are ever-present.

We are in a time of increasing change and uncertainty about a lot of things in the world. One thing remains true, however. That is, the baby boomers who started the movement are aging. I think it's high time we thanked our courageous GLBTQI and Two-Spirit elders and honored them. If you are one of our elders in Duluth and wish to join the GLBTQ Elder Network, or you are someone who would like to help our elders, please contact me at [anichols@d.umn.edu](mailto:anichols@d.umn.edu) or call 218-726-7300.

Happy 25th Anniversary and Congratulations beloved Northlanders! ▣

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Angie Nichols is the founding Director of GLBT Services at the University of Minnesota Duluth since 2000 served two years as Duluth-Superior Pride Co-Chair, has received the Pride Award and is a former columnist for *Lavender Magazine*.





Marrow Toast and Haley Bonar at Lake Avenue Café. Photos by Alex Finseth

## Lake Avenue Café

Lake Avenue Café has been located in the heart of Canal Park in Duluth, Minnesota, for close to 20 years, but in 2008 a breath of fresh air shook the place up in the guise of new owners. What was once a staid café has been reborn as a hip dining destination for both the younger Duluth as well as discerning travelers. Local artists' work dons the walls. They invite members of Duluth's vibrant musical community to perform in the restaurant and occasionally in the parking lot outside.

On a recent night, Haley Bonar, local love and rising musician of note, belted out some tunes with her side project Gramma's Boyfriend and lit the place of fire (figuratively speaking, of course). However, the most noticeable change has been in the quality of food and drinks available in the breezy space, just steps from the majestic big lake.

The new owners, Derek Snyder, Mark Swenson and Michael Schraepfer, are a collection of self-confessed booze snobs. Behind the bar, you'll find nothing but top shelf available. There is no Popov vodka—there isn't even a pedestrian bottle of Bacardi rum. Many of their spirits are from micro-distilleries including a Texas whiskey made from blue corn, sweetened with local figs and honey; a tree-sap liquor; or a beet and thyme-infused gin served with cucumber liquor and soda water. Crafting classic cocktails with the finest ingredients, they serve elegant apertif or digestive elixirs with a rich, succulent meal. The beer and wine lists are carefully selected as well including luscious, spritely, and utterly affordable wines and beer from local breweries.

The bar area is warm and cozy in the cooler months. I spent an evening at the height of the November gales, huge waves walloped the shore, and rain assaulted the brick exterior - the kind of weather that took the Edmund Fitzgerald, the lake's most famous shipwreck.

Meanwhile, I was nestled inside, sipping a supple Malbec and feasting on spicy chorizo wrapped in fatty bacon, cozy as a fireside pig in a blanket. While we're talking food, let me tell you, I don't use the word "luxurious" lightly, plates include opulent marrow toast (\$12), creamy lobster pasta (\$19)—even the mac and cheese (\$12) is studded with a bar-raising, pungent Taleggio. Simply put, these kids aren't kidding. They don't do average, down to the rough-hewn wood tables and banquettes, made by an artisan friend. They serve food from brunch until midnight and cocktails until 1:00am.

When the weather is kinder, one couldn't ask for a better seat than lounging on the afternoon sun-soaked deck. Tucked away from the hustle and bustle, even on busy nights, it feels like an oasis.

For the upcoming Duluth Pride celebration, owner Derek Snyder says they hope to have the Roller Dames, Duluth's roller derby team do a demo in their parking lot with local celebrities serving as referees. There will also be live music.

Lake Avenue Café has something for everyone from artists to the affluent; all are welcome here. [www.lakeavenuecafe.com](http://www.lakeavenuecafe.com) ▣



Canal Park gal and dining al fresco. Photos by Joy Summers





## Black Water Lounge

Enter the sleek interior of the Black Water Lounge on Superior Street, walls adorned with stylistic art of a bygone era, past chic booths, a white piano with a local lady singing torchy songs of lament. Grip the sleek, cool, white marble bar-top as you slide onto a clean, white leather stool and order. If it's Saturday night, they even offer 'tini 2 for 1s. A list of small plates, savory or sweet, is hidden within a black menu at your fingertips. It's a decades-old kind of classic cool that never tarnishes in time as it lowly sings, "At Last." [www.blackwaterlounge.com](http://www.blackwaterlounge.com)



Photos by Alex Finseth

## Zeitgeist Arts

A shining star added to the Superior Street's main drag in 2009, the Zeitgeist Arts is a café, independent cinema, and theater space. Created with grant money, they offer contemporary artists a place to feed their souls and nourish the body.

Screening independent cinema, tickets are only \$8.00, in addition to being the only spot for such movies (since the shuttering of the lamented NorShor).

The café serves elegant food (try the green curry mussels) with a full bar and a gorgeous theater space for local productions. Parking is available with free three-hour validation in the public ramp across the street. [www.zeitgeistarts.com](http://www.zeitgeistarts.com)



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## COVER FEATURE | FALL GETAWAYS | by Andy Lien

### Roadtripping Lake Pepin



ONE OF THE most beautiful stretches of Minnesota is found between Red Wing and Winona, along the Mississippi River. To be truthful, we owe a lot of credit to Wisconsin, as Lake Pepin is hard to enjoy wholly from only one of the two states. While I call this piece Roadtripping Lake Pepin, it's somewhat of a misnomer. Feel free to end your trip when Lake Pepin does by crossing over to Wisconsin on Highway 25 at Wabasha, but I'd recommend seeing it through all the way down to Winona. This is a trip I've made each fall for many years and the adventure doesn't feel complete without seeing a fair stretch of Bluff Country.

The most important facet of a roadtrip is settling on the parameters. Know your audience and your objectives. Coffee within the first hour is important, probably still within the Metro Area...perhaps while still within walking distance of home. Never go with more than one person per window, nobody wants to straddle the hump in the backseat without being able to see more than the trunks of the trees along the roadside. Music is key, let the persnickety one pick it. Never ever start with a wine tasting in Hastings as everyone will require naps before you even get to Lake Pepin. There's living and learning and each year's roadtrip is usually better than the last.

We've got about eight hours and many miles to go—very few places will make the cut; others will merit their own trips. For instance, we're roadtripping—it's not a day for hiking or biking Frontenac State Park. It could be a good reconnaissance mission for an overnighter in the future, but plan to be home by nightfall. And, depending upon your group of travelers, it could be all about food, art, window-shopping, antiquing, or all of the above. There are so very many options.

Because so much of the Minnesota side of the route is accessible for shorter day trips, I focus on how to do the whole loop in a day, most of the stops occurring on the Wisconsin side. This is not a slight to our fair state, but more a look at how a region is experienced. Given that much of the Minnesota side involves high-speed travel down Highway 61 with exits and turns into the river towns, I find the slower pace that takes me through the river towns that flank the Great River Road (Highway 35) in Wisconsin to be preferred. We're driving the main drags and looking inside the storefronts of history; quaint and industrial, artistic and plain, bleak and optimistic. All of it, wonderful.

### THE ROUTE

It begins in Hastings on Highway 61/63 and continues all the way down Winona to cross to Wisconsin on Winona Street (43) and turn north on the Great River Road (35) at the "T." When all the way up to just north of Bay City, you can cross back over to Red Wing on 63 or wait until Prescott when 35 brings you to 10 that will cross you back to Hastings. Check out your maps, plot your course. My friend Matt went down in hysterical lore the year he told me to just "turn left" in Winona to get to Wisconsin. As his luck would have it, the exact place I "turned left" got us precisely where we needed to be. Still, I like to have a little better sense of where I'm going than that.



## MINNESOTA

Once you're clipping along on Highway 61 going south from Hastings, you'll see signs for places that deserve a separate trip. Alexis Bailey Vineyards is toward the very start of the journey. Red Wing beckons the window-shoppers in the vehicle, but stopping too early might mean losing momentum for getting around the lake. It's important to establish the taskmaster of the journey as sometimes there is navigational enforcement to be done...like when passing a store called the Uffda Shop. Also, be sure to look to your right as you leave Red Wing; an unexpected architectural delight is to be found in the Minnesota Correctional Facility there. On to Lake City, there are the sights of Lake Pepin to behold: sailboats, a marina, and the only lighthouse on the Mississippi River. Grab some apples at the Pepin Heights store, take some time to drink it in, but then keep on going...much of your destination lies ahead of you. Wabasha has a great shopping area as well as the National Eagle Center. Typically, I tour through the town with a stop for chocolate and coffee at The Chocolate Escape and a drive-by nod to the Eagle Center, right on the riverfront. Because Wabasha requires getting off the highway and finding your way through the town streets, it might be easily skipped in case you're feeling hunger pains and want to get to the lunch destination in Wisconsin sooner than later.

Winona is as much an active, working city as the ones you just left for the day. What surprised me the last time I went around Lake Pepin was the jewel in the crown of Minnesota's art scene, the Minnesota Marine Art Museum, peacefully and quietly existing down in the riverfront college town of Winona. There are visiting collections (Norman Rockwell was particularly delightful last year) as well as a permanent collection that knocked me off my feet. Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings of international importance are contained within the attractive, weathered cedar-shake building on the Mississippi, including works by Bradford, Buttersworth, Cole, Homer, Monet, O'Keeffe, Picasso, Pissarro, Renoir and Van Gogh. Each time I turned a corner, I gasped at who and what I saw hanging on the wall. Delightful. If you choose to do the roadtrip in a clockwise fashion, instead of starting in Minnesota and going counterclockwise, I recommend stopping at the museum in the late afternoon before going to dinner at one of the fine restaurants in Red Wing.

*Continued on Page 22*



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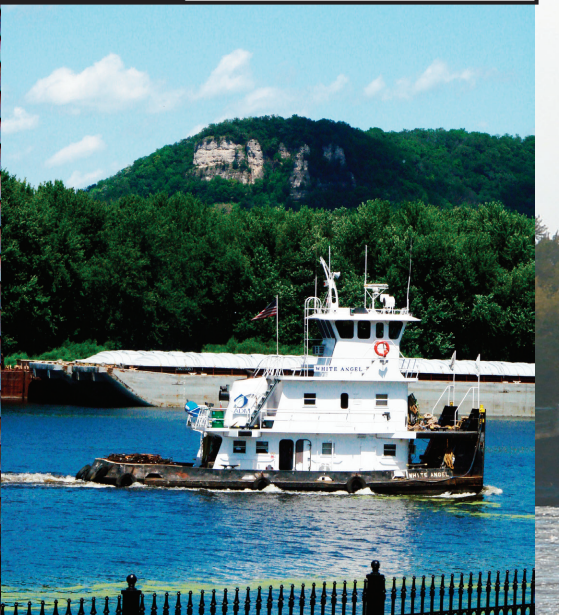




**Lake Pepin is a naturally occurring lake and the widest part of the Mississippi River at 21 miles long, averaging 1.7 miles across. Waterskiing was invented on it at Lake City and lore reports that a creature, "Pepie," resides in it.**

**Rough Roadtripping Navigation:**

**Take MN Hwy 61 south from Hastings to Winona and WI Hwy 35 north from Winona on the return trip. Bridges between the states can be found in Red Wing, Wabasha, and Winona.**





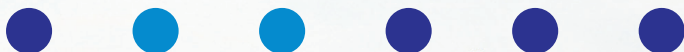


## Roadtripping Lake Pepin

**Clockwise from top left: Lock & Dam 4 in Alma, Wisconsin; Abode in Stockholm, The Monarch in Fountain City; Maiden Rock Apples above artful antiques in Stockholm, River Power of the Mississippi; a tugboat, the reflections of a barge on the river, and the Marine Art Museum in Winona, Minnesota; the namesake of the Golden Frog in Fountain City, Wisconsin. Photos by Andy Lien**

**Left: An abstract map for an abstract trip.**

**A road well-tripped, a river well-traveled.**





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## COVER FEATURE | FALL GETAWAYS

### WISCONSIN

Once you've crossed over from Winona to Highway 35 in Wisconsin, the first town you'll encounter to the north is Fountain City. Set in the bluffs, my annual lunch destination is up the hill from the highway: The Monarch Public House. A quiet, historical place by day (but what looks to be a Packer bar by night), The Monarch has been serving travelers since 1894. A brewhouse and restaurant, it always sates us by the time we get there for a late lunch. I order the same burger every year, the "I Am Uncle Harry's Burger," a "big, juicy burger with a thrilling combination of cheddar, bistro mustard sauce, chopped green olives, and thinly sliced onion." It never fails to please.

Fed and happy, we proceed north on the Great River Road. If someone needs to stretch a bit, checking out Lock and Dam 4 at Alma is fascinating...but we usually plod onward to Nelson for an ice cream cone at The Original Nelson Cheese Factory (more loosely known as the Nelson Creamery). The blueberry ice cream is divine and, even when you see the line stretching outside the door to get some, it's worth the fleeting wait...whichever the flavor. Plenty of motorcycles line the road and the crowd is a mix and match of people looking for cheese, wine, ice cream, or a meal of sandwiches, soups, and pizza. We're usually stuffed by then, and more so with the ice cream, so our stop is often short and sweet.

North of Nelson is the town of Pepin. Pepin hosts gorgeous and interesting art in its shops and is a required stop for anyone looking for a stroll along the water. My first destination is Great River Coffee Roasters on Highway 35 before heading down to the waterfront to park and browse through the shops. Antiques, garden gifts, art, and novelties await in Pepin. And, if you're there for lunch or supper, The Harbor View Café is historically popular—with reason—and has pleasing coq au vin and Swedish meatballs.

Stockholm is the belle of the ball. I look forward to getting to Stockholm all year. It's been the topic of foodie buzz recently due to the "Pizza Farm" at AtoZ Produce and Bakery (which only serves pizza on Tuesdays) but it also has events like a film festival and *Christmas in Stockholm* that draw people to its fine locale. What so appeals to me is the use of the historical buildings along Highway 35. A house has been turned into The Palate with aporch and lower level full of kitchen implements, gourmet ingredients, décor, and wine. Bogus Creek Café & Bakery and The Stockholm Pie Company keep us in our sweets. Ingebretsen's (of Minneapolis) has a smaller, more genteel store which is oh-so-apropos in Stockholm. Gelly's Pub & Eatery has proven itself invaluable as a place to send someone who's not interested in window-shopping. OQ Quilts\* has handmade treasures and quilting supplies. Stockholm General\* stocks Wisconsin foods and wines with delicious samples to taste. A must-see, Abode,\* is an artist gallery, an interior design studio, and a home and lifestyle showroom. (\*GLBT-Owned.)

Up the hill from Stockholm (past a cemetery that can get pretty creepy as the sun gets lower) is the Maiden Rock Apples, which is where I usually end the formal portion of the tour and buy a sack of apples. Unlike other stops along the way, this location allows you to wander through the trees and pick your own apples or taste and take what they've already prepared for purchase. A little hay bale maze is available for the kids, but usually we just sit on it because we think we're old and tired. The sun gets lower on the farmland of Wisconsin as we sip some cider and prepare for the return trip to the Cities.

A road well-tripped, a river well-traveled. □





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# Home (not far) Away from Home

STILLWATER IS THE town I eagerly revisit whenever I can't afford the time or money to sprint off to Europe. When my VISA bills and dirty socks and dishes mount faster than the national debt, I simply practice denial. I put a pillow over my head to render them invisible, and then my head on a pillow in one of the town's über-charming B&Bs along the river, only 30 miles away.

It's the oldest town in Minnesota—think 1848, before statehood was even a glimmer in a trapper's eye. As riverboats brought settlers, those newcomers needed homes—wooden homes—and the logging industry was born.

What's left of that boom and bust today are the scores of fancy mansions those lumber barons built, abetted by Main Street's quaint brick storefronts, once full of saloons (57) and cathouses (6) serving the randy lumberjacks the tycoons hired—today revived as bistros, galleries, bookstores, boutiques and antiques emporia. The 28 churches of the town's heyday still thrust their spires skyward, though most today house condos.

Who lived in those got-it, flaunt-it mansions lining the hills? Ask Bob Raleigh. He's the poker-faced joker manning Stillwater Trolley tours—45-minute romps through yesterday, past Victorian belles like the William Sauntry Mansion, where F. Scott Fitzgerald

hung out with his old friend, Bill; the Ann Bean House, built as a wedding present for a favorite daughter (both are B&Bs today); past the Lumbermen's Exchange, now the Water Street Inn (great Irish bar); the classic library Andrew Carnegie erected; and the landmark redbrick courthouse-cum-jail of 1867, which welcomes visitors with a video of the town's founding and a collection of Civil War memorabilia. Outside, the sole remaining cannon is aimed squarely at the headquarters of Cub Foods.

Or cruise the river itself in the slim skiffs of Gondola Romantica with a BYO bottle of vino from—maybe not Venice, but Northern Vineyards on Main Street—the oldest winegrowers' co-op in the country, open for tours and tastings. Or tote a growler from the new Stillwater Brewery (free quickie tour and tastings) where the Morgan boys' transplants from West Virginia—brew Nut Brown Honey, Red Wheat, and more. You can even tour the former 1853 grey-stone home of the prison warden. The state prison itself, which housed varmints from the Jesse James Gang in its heyday, was awarded to Stillwater as a consolation prize when it lost its bid to become state capitol.

Today the site houses a better-off class of condo dwellers. They fuel the feisty entrepre-

neurs stoking Main Street's eccentric shops (not a Gap, not a Starbucks in sight), here to entrap day-trippers like you and me. (I'm such easy prey they should be embarrassed.)

Chef's Gallery proffers all the kitchen gear you never knew you needed (classes, too). Trembley's lures the innocent with homemade fudge. Stillwater Olive Oil Company boasts a gourmet collection of flavored olive oils, from truffle to chipotle, plus scented vinegars from Modena itself (mango, grapefruit and dozens more) to mix and match to liven your marinades, salads, and sauces. Tradewinds sells a global realm of spices, and Maison Galleria offers the table settings, and more, that these wares deserve. Mara Mi provides all things paper, from fancy wrapping to elite invitations, plus a sweets bar (lime-frosted cake puffs on a stick). Espresso and ice cream, too.

If by now you're running low on greenbacks, head to Karma, where vintage duds go for a song (plus maybe a fiver). And then, there are the eight antiques shops and malls lining Main Street, your source for sets of china roosters, crocheted tea cozies, vintage rods and reels and dollar books ("How to Flirt" is shelved next to "Instant Meditation," in case the first purchase doesn't work out. To test it, check out the scads of bars with live

*Continued on Page 26*



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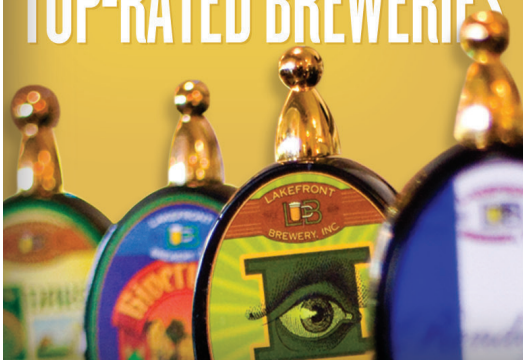
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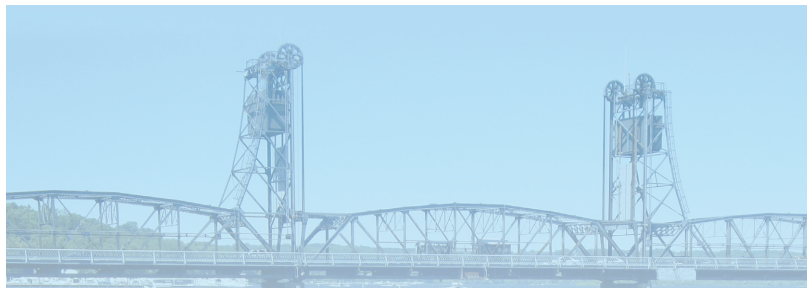


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music and dancing lining Main Street, where you can spin your same-sex partner in style).

One last meal before I head home, courtesy of Henrietta and Claudette. Those girls inhabit the henhouse in the backyard of Elephant Walk, the gay (and everybody)-friendly B&B where I returned after a decade's absence. ("Still prefer red wine?" asked Rita, the charming host with a memory like the elephants she favors in her décor, courtesy of her many trips to Thailand, scoring wondrous finds—sort of Old Curiosity Shop Meets the Far East, plus fireplaces and hot tubs (oh, and complimentary wine and cheese). Maybe if I offer to wash dishes, I'll never have to leave. ■

For addresses and info, visit [www.discoverstillwater.com](http://www.discoverstillwater.com).



## STILLWATER DINING FINDS

Stillwater's dining finds are a well-kept secret—except that I'm about to blab. Sneak away from the cities for a night of creative fare in a small-town setting. Who knew?

**SAVORIES BISTRO** just keeps getting better, thanks to farm friendships fueling hand-crafted winners, sailing from chicken banh mi slathered with sesame-ginger mayo to a grand Cubano, and fish tacos-sublime. Not to mention the sensational coconut and scallop chowder.  
108 N. Main, 651-430-0702 [www.savoriesbistro.com](http://www.savoriesbistro.com)

**REVÉ 324** is the love child of Matt Sterbenow, a basketball star-turned-sommelier who opened his "dream" [revé] café, thanks to "family and friends"—including mom's sofas surrounding the cozy fireplace. Don't miss his mini-burgers, or the still-flopping yellow fin tuna starter, followed by sirloin paired with a blue cheese-asparagus risotto.  
324 S. Main, 651-342-1594 [www.reve324onmain.com](http://www.reve324onmain.com)



**THE GREEN ROOM** is the town's sleeper, forged from rough-hewn lumber and local fieldstone and the kitchen talents of Chris Durant. "The word 'no' is not in his vocabulary," a server hinted, so bring it on: homemade hummus and baba ganouj; a goat cheese-sundried tomato-artichoke-roasted garlic flatbread; mundane romaine-turned- magnifique via blue cheese, pine nuts and bacon; gnocchi light as ping pong balls; and nirvana: Indian-style scallops in fiery curry flanked by turmeric potatoes.  
215 S. Main, 651-342-0215 [www.thegreenroomstillwater.com](http://www.thegreenroomstillwater.com)

**MARX FUSION BISTRO** is where jet-setters hang—or, Jetson-setters, judging from the café's avant garde design. Its eclectic menu is equally forward: walleye dumplings with chili peppers, sweet potatoes and smoked paprika; an intergalactic salad of endive, beets, caramelized pecans, hefty bacon and Gorgonzola crumbles; mahi spiked with red chilies, then calmed with hummus and a sweet carrot puree. Cool your jets with a toss of homemade pappardelle sauced with pistachios, parmesan, basil, and cream.  
241 S. Main, 651-439-8333 [www.marxwbg.com](http://www.marxwbg.com)

**SHANGHAI BISTRO** is the new wok on the block, featuring all things Asian, from sushi to—yes—chow mein. Best bet: Tote your chopsticks to the food tents on the rear deck, where the band is playing.  
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## Dolly Parton Apologizes for Gay Marriage Shirt Spat

The *Atlantic Wire* reports that Dolly Parton has responded to a controversy involving a lesbian who was asked to turn her gay marriage t-shirt inside out in July at Dollywood. Parton said in a statement to ABC, "I am truly sorry for the hurt or embarrassment regarding the gay and lesbian t-shirt incident at Dollywood's Splash Country recently. Everyone knows of my personal support of the gay and lesbian community. Dollywood is a family park and all families are welcome."

### Chile President Offers to Legalize Gay Unions

AFP reports that conservative Chilean President Sebastián Piñera proposed legislation in August that would legalize same-sex civil unions. Piñera said in a statement, "I deeply believe that marriage is by nature between a man and a woman, but that conviction does not prevent me from recognizing that other forms of affective relationships exist." The proposal would grant gay couples some of the same rights as married couples.

### Dallas Museum Finds The World's Last Gay Holocaust Survivor

D Magazine reports that Rudolf Brazda, who passed away in August, was not, as

had been reported, the last gay survivor of the Nazi Holocaust. The *Dallas Voice* reports that, in fact, 88 year old Gad Beck of Berlin, himself a gay holocaust survivor, is alive and well.

### Woman Pleads Guilty in Transgender McDonald's Beating

The Associated Press reports that 19-year-old Teonna Brown pleaded guilty in August to one count of first degree assault and one count of a hate crime. Brown was captured on videotape brutally beating 22-year-old transgender woman Chrissy Polis at a Baltimore area McDonald's. Brown will be sentenced in September. Prosecutors are seeking a five year prison term.

### Court Hears Challenge to Gay Juror Dismissals

The Associated Press reports that the U.S. 9th Circuit of Appeals heard arguments in August in a case that could decide whether lawyers can dismiss potential jurors because they are gay. The suit arose after a LA prosecutor's decision last year to strike a lesbian from a case against a gay federal inmate. The *LA Times* reports that a favorable ruling could extend discrimination protections to sexual orientation along with race creed and gender.

### Romney Signs New Pledge Banning Gay Marriage

The *Boston Globe* reports that Republican Presidential candidate Mitt Romney has

signed a new pledge, sponsored by the National Organization for Marriage, committing candidates to support a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. Candidates Michele Bachmann and Rick Santorum also signed the pledge. Former Minnesota Governor and fellow candidate Tim Pawlenty did not sign the pledge, but re-affirmed his opposition to same-sex marriage.

### New HIV Cases Stay Steady in US Over Decade

The *Boston Globe* reports that the rate of new HIV infections has stayed the same over the last decade. The findings were released by federal officials in August. About 50,000 people a year are infected with HIV in the United States. Critics call the numbers a failure of federal HIV/AIDS policy. Dr. Anthony Fauci, chief of AIDS research at the National Institutes of Health called the number an "unacceptably high level" and warned "we're likely to face an era of rising infection rate."

### Suquamish Tribe Legalizes Same-Sex Marriage

The *Seattle Times* reports that the Suquamish Indian tribe in the state of Washington has passed an ordinance legalizing same sex marriage on its tribal land. The tribal council unanimously approved the ordinance. The change allows two unmarried people, regardless of gender, to marry as long as they are at least 18 and one is a member of the Suquamish Tribe. According to the *Times*, the Coquille Tribe in Coos Bay Oregon is the only other tribe to have legalized same-sex marriage. □





# Swear Jar: Michele Bachmann

Can we please stop calling Michele Bachmann an evil bitch? Deep breath. Stay with me.

I am not a fan of Michele Bachmann. I want her to fail. Miserably. Like, if one day I was exiting off I-35W and she was standing on the corner of 35th Street with a cardboard sign that said "Will Hate for Food," I'd smile. Sure, I'd probably roll down the window and give her a dollar, but after she took it I'd tell her it was a gay dollar. A gay dollar that was shoved into my gay g-string while I was gay stripping at the gay bar. Then I'd blast "It's Raining Men" on the stereo and drive off, still smiling. That's how much I hope Michele Bachmann fails. Oh and, don't worry. She didn't have to end up homeless. She qualified for unemployment benefits, but turned them down, because, of course, they're just a socialist ploy by gangster government to turn everyone gay.

Where was I? Oh, yes, the evil bitch. The

words, not Michele Bachmann. Remember, I'm trying to get people to stop calling Michele Bachmann an evil bitch. Frankly, every time I hear someone call Michele Bachmann that, I cringe. For the record, there is also a small part of me way back in my primitive lizard brain that laughs maniacally when I hear that. Coincidentally, I think they call that the Michele Bachmann brain region. Primitive lizard brain.

Okay, back to the evil bitch. First, let's take a look at the word evil. Evil is a dumb word. It's a fairytale word used by children and people like Michele Bachmann, herself, who live in a simple world of moral dualism, where everything is either good or bad. It's us versus them. It may make for great movies, but it makes for horrible social policy. Think Crusades, Holocaust, etc.

As for bitch, it's a relative no-brainer. Calling a woman a bitch is too easy. And sexist. And doesn't really say much for you or the

bitch.

When it comes right down to it, calling Michele Bachmann an evil bitch pretty much puts you on par with Michele Bachmann. If Michele Bachmann were running against Michele Bachmann, she'd probably call her an evil bitch.

More importantly, when we call Michele Bachmann an evil bitch, we miss an opportunity to go after her actual record. And what a record it is. Just Google "dumb things Michele Bachmann says."

The next time you feel the urge to scream out, "Michele Bachmann's an evil bitch," relent. Actually, donate \$5 to the HRC or Out-Front Minnesota instead. That is, unless you see a crazy-eyed homeless lady with a bad blowout at the I-35W 35th Street exit.

Next issue: Can we please stop calling Marcus Bachmann gay? ❑

## Top Michele Quotes about 'The Gay'

"[Same-sex marriage] is probably the biggest issue that will impact our state and our nation in the last, at least, thirty years. I am not understating that."

"This is an earthquake issue. This will change our state forever. Because the immediate consequence, if gay marriage goes through, is that K-12 little children will be forced to learn that homosexuality is normal, natural and perhaps they should try it."

"This is a very serious matter, because it is our children who are the prize for this community, they are specifically targeting our children."

"This is not about hating homosexuals. I don't. I love homosexuals."

"It leads to the personal enslavement of individuals. Because if you're involved in the gay and lesbian lifestyle, it's bondage. Personal bondage, personal despair, and personal enslavement. And that's why this is so dangerous."

"In 5,000 years of recorded human history...neither in the east or in the west...has any society ever defined marriage as anything other than between men and women. Not one in 5,000 years of recorded human history. That's an astounding fact and it isn't until the last 12 years or so that we have seen for the first time in recorded human history marriage defined as anything other than between men and between women."

Quotes taken directly from [http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Michele\\_Bachmann](http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Michele_Bachmann) on Wednesday, August 17, 2011.



# Target Boycott Appears To Be Working

WHEN TARGET CORPORATION donated \$150,000 to the right wing, antigay, MN Forward last year, they were blindsided by the firestorm from outraged shoppers who were more socially conscious than the Target Board seemed to have been aware. Randi Reitan, whose son Jacob is openly gay, tore up her Target credit card on camera, renounced her loyalty to Target, and unexpectedly became a YouTube sensation.

Better yet, her symbolic action spurred a national boycott of Target stores. MN Forward was an ardent backer of right wing gubernatorial candidate, Tom Emmer, who has been compared in both style and content, to the male version of US Representative Michele Bachmann, a politician with whom he shares similar views. He has also been a booster for hyperbolic heavy metal Christian shock jock, Bradlee Dean.

After MoveOn.org created a critical video of Target's donation and crafted a petition to address that, the independent Minnesota news service, The UpTake, filmed and posted the petition's delivery to Target headquarters. Reitan says, "I thank The UpTake. They got the video out there to such a large audience immediately. I heard from so many who had watched 'My Last Shopping Trip to Target' and decided they were joining me in boycotting the store. It went viral very fast."

That boycott, as reflected on Facebook, now has over 358,000 participants, debunking conventional wisdom that boycotts are ineffective. Part of its success has to do with fears expressed across the political spectrum about the Citizens United decision by the Supreme Court in January of last year which radically expanded the ability of corporations and unions to make political donations. Target's \$150,000 seems miniscule in a political system drenched in money and the political favors that money buys, but it was seen as an arrogant act where a corporation could use their clout to unfair advantage in order to thwart the will of the people. It was also the first high profile post-Citizens United example of pointedly partisan corporate giving to a hurtful organization.

Though boycott success and failure rates are difficult to decipher, Matt McNeil, who hosts a popular Minnesota issues program on AM950, has been conducting his own

personal Target boycott experiment. McNeil has been tracking how his own household has diverted thousands of dollars from Target. On June 8 he broadcast that his family expenses that would have definitively been Target purchases, so far this year, were at \$12,664. McNeil shares, "Since then I'm up to about \$14,000. Here I am, one guy, married with kids, from Minneapolis-St. Paul. It'll soon be \$15,000 they've lost from me. That's one tenth of the donation given to MN Forward. And Target's numbers are down. They're not hitting industry standards for retail. They're still making profits but they're lower than the rest. My family's \$15,000 has to have an impact."

The boycott has also succeeded from another angle. Last year, Minnesota Representative Ryan Winkler (DFL-Dist. 44B), who thankfully sponsored the state's campaign disclosure law, was shown a fundraising sheet from MN Forward that revealed that group planned to raise \$10 million from corporate donors for upcoming elections. Winkler said he received the sheet "from one of the employees of one of the companies on the list. They targeted Target for a one million dollar donation as well as other corporations."

As Reitan interprets this, the original \$150,000 "was just the first check Target had planned to write. The boycott stopped other checks, so it was successful on that front. The boycott also put other corporations on notice that people are watching who they support in elections. That was an important lesson taught by the boycott and another way to call the boycott successful."

When I asked Target CEO Gregg Steinhafel's office about the list Winkler received, his spokesperson, Jessica Carlson replied, "We have no additional information to share."

A few weeks before, I had inquired with Steinhafel's office about how he thought the boycott was affecting business. As a bit of background for the reader, I had also queried Steinhafel's office in late February with the following questions: 1. When exactly did Target stop donating to antigay candidates for the 2010 fall election? 2. Have there been specific internal meetings with Target's GLBT employees? 3. What was Target's reasoning for donating to US Representatives

John Klein and Erik Paulsen's campaign? 4. I understand that there are new guidelines re: vetting of contributions, so who does this vetting, how are they chosen, and what are their vetting criteria? 5. How will this new policy committee be selected?" (Klein and Paulsen's social issues stances are comparable to US Representative Michele Bachmann's.)

Carlson replied last month saying, "We have nothing additional to share with you beyond the information we provided earlier this year." That earlier information, which Carlson sent to me Feb. 24 stated, "Thanks for reaching out. During and immediately following the 2010 election cycle, Target undertook a review of its political giving policies and practices. As part of this process Target has established a Policy Committee consisting of our most senior executives to guide decision-making related to financial support of political activities." She named no names and gave no detailed answers.

In February and July I also made the following inquiries to Daniel Duty, the ranking co-sponsor of Target's GLBT business council. I asked about his thoughts on the boycott, if he had any face to face discussions with Steinhafel about the donation fracas and/or GLBT issues, and about a so-called Creating Change workshop that Target, Best Buy, and General Mills representatives had with certain GLBT groups this past winter.

Duty never responded, but in July, Carlson did, with "I understand you've reached out to others within Target, including Daniel Duty. Please consider my response on behalf of the entire company. We have nothing additional to share beyond the information we provided earlier this year."

While some GLBT organizations continue to receive support from corporations with antigay leanings, more GLBT individuals and allies are not necessarily supporting those corporations with their dollars. As Reitan says of the new Target landscape, "It made me a new kind of consumer. I have heard from many who feel the same way. I feel we now must look carefully at where we spend our money because the dollars we spend could end up helping a political candidate who we would not want to see win." □





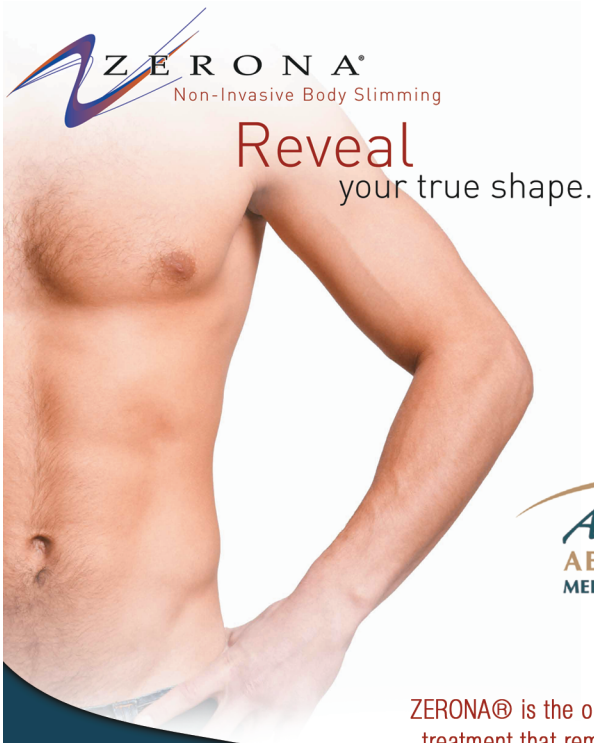
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# Corporations Are People

Target Corporation has been bearing the brunt of scrutiny for their \$150,000 donation to MN Forward, a political action committee supporting Republican Tom Emmer, who openly opposes same-sex marriage, while some Twin Cities non-profit organizations face criticism for their corporate contributors.

Looking into the issue further, many organizations recognized that corporations and their employee groups are important components to realizing their overall mission, even when there are conflicting political contributions.

Amy Brugh, Minnesota AIDS Project's director of external relations, said the organization is able to look past political donations when considering donors.

"If a corporation makes a donation for an electoral purpose, we would set that aside," Brugh said. Kathleen H. Corley, MAP's interim executive director, agreed and said it is beneficial to recognize the contributor's aim.

"We're not going to impugn the gift because of the behavior of the corporation," Corley noted. "It is a gift made by a group with supportive intent."

Contributions can come from Employee Resource Groups, composed of people in the workforce, or corporate giving departments, but many of the organizations agreed it doesn't matter where the money comes from.

"From our perspective, it doesn't make much difference which corporate arm is

actually making a gift," said Michael Cole-Schwartz, communications director of the Twin Cities Human Rights Campaign, via email. "It's simply a company's contribution at the end of the day."

Employee groups can often raise awareness of an issue that is important to a corporation's employees and "companies want to support their employees," according to Dot Belstler, executive director of Twin Cities Pride. TC Pride has been criticized for donations they have accepted from Target, but Belstler pointed out the situation is more complicated than it may seem.

"It would be nice if it were black and white," Belstler explained. "We try to weigh a lot of different things when we look at sponsorships. We have to go back to our mission."

Whether it is working with the employee group or the corporation itself, the "bottom line is...who cares about your cause," said Belstler. Belstler explained that the members of Target's GLBT employee group, the GLBT Employee Business Council, are active in the Twin Cities community as the volunteers "on the ground." She said the group helped Target re-examine how they

make donations.


"We had two different times where Target executives came to Pride board meetings to talk about how they work, what happens there and how things are changing," Belstler stated. "They are being more responsive to their employees." Corporations and employee groups add valuable perspectives, as well as financial support, according to Ann Kaner-Roth, executive director of Project 515.

"One thing that Project 515 has been really intentional about is bringing as many different voices to the table as possible," Kaner-Roth said. "It's about bringing people into the discussion." When asked whether or not contributor's past donations matter in the vetting process Kaner-Roth responded, "I think that if a corporation is willing to support a mission, we want to have both that support and that voice at the table to move that mission forward. I don't think we will succeed as a movement if we are not welcoming of all voices."

According to Project 515's website, the organization receives funding from the Target Foundation, which distributes grants from the corporation to the community, as well as many other diverse sources that Kaner-Roth described as "vital" to their cause. Kaner-Roth added, "All of our contributors believe in the mission of [Project] 515 and at the end of the day that really is the most important thing for us." ■




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# Beyond the Poison Years

Bob Mould digs deep into self in new book

OVER A CAREER that spans three decades, multiple bands and a multitude of classic songs, Bob Mould has usually let his music do the talking. In interviews, he's always come off as thoughtful, cautious and intelligent, but he's kept the whole story of his music, career, and life under wraps. He opens up in *See a Little Light*, his autobiography (co-written with top music scribe Michael Azerrad), where he not only looks at his years in the music business, but discusses growing up gay in rural New York, his string of long-term relationships, and the emotional demons that have haunted him through his life.

Mould travels chronologically, starting with his early life in Malone, New York. The small-town-life was far from idyllic, especially with his abusive, alcoholic father. As is often the case, those early years laid the foundation for Mould's later problems with substance abuse and understanding his own emotions. From there, Mould went off for an almost clichéd 1970s upbringing, drinking a lot of beer and listening to hard rock on the radio. His love of music ran deeper than most, however, and his skills as a guitar player showed up very early. Once he discovered the early punk rock sound, Mould was hooked.

The first half of the book traces the rapid rise and fall of Hüsker Dü, the seminal band Mould led with co-singer-songwriter Grant Hart. There's plenty of good, nerdy details about gear and recording classic albums like *Zen Arcade*, along with stories from the road. Mould also examines his own trust issues and lays some of the blame for the band's disunion at his feet, though he puts most of it at the feet of Hart's drug use.

He also looks at his growing sexuality, describing the emotions and turmoil of his first boyfriends in the relatively liberated Twin Cities of Minnesota, and how



Bob Mould. Photo by Noah Kalina

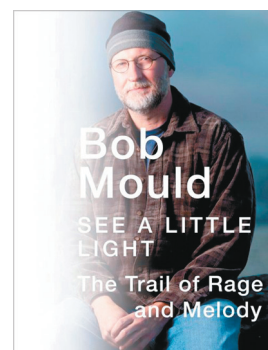
the same issues that helped to short-circuit Hüsker Dü were in play at home. The relationship issues continue through the book's second half, as Mould works his way through 25 years of his solo career, including the highs of Sugar, his stint as a writer for World Championship Wrestling (he really is a man after my own heart) and the slow process of improving himself in life and love. He eventually finds comfort in the bear community, where he doesn't have to hide the real "Bob."

As someone who has followed Mould's career as far back as the glory days of Hüsker Dü (probably the very first hardcore punk rock I ever heard was when KQRS – yes, really – played a few cuts from *Everything Falls Apart* on their late-night local music program), the insights into his music are intriguing, but sometimes the discussions about guitar tone and the pickups he employed are a bit too nerdy even for me. I get a sense that, even after all these years, Mould is still uncomfortable talking

directly about his personal life and relishes the chance to retreat back to the music.

Still, the book proceeds with crystal-clear, punk-rock honesty. Mould has barely spoken a word to the other two members of Hüsker Dü in the past quarter century, and it doesn't sound like he'll be calling up Grant Hart or Greg Norton anytime soon. He admits that some of the records he released over the years, such as the swansongs for Hüsker Dü (*Warehouse: Songs and Stories*) and Sugar (*File Under: Easy Listening*) were weak, and lays part of the blame at his own feet.

In the end, it is the personal stories that stick in the mind, of building home after home in a search for happiness that won't come until the writer is as honest with his private life as he is in his songs. That transformation is remarkable, and sheds light on the late career renaissance Mould has enjoyed. Once he was at last comfortable with himself, the music began to flow once again. □



## See a Little Light

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ARENA DANCES. Photo by Erik Saulitis

**Cowles Center Opening Weekend Celebration**

— The Twin Cities is a mecca for theater but it also has more dance companies per capita than any metro area in the US. However, dance performances in the Twin Cities are often relegated to facilities ill-equipped to handle their particular needs. From changing into dancewear to the type of floor that safely supports the dancer's dynamic athleticism, until now, the needs of local dance have been insufficiently addressed.

But finally, after years of preparation, which has included literally moving the historic Shubert Theater from a block away to the site right next to the Hennepin Center for the Arts and yards away from

the light rail, that palace from the vaudeville era is now the Cowles Center for Dance and the Performing Arts. A restored exterior and revamped neo-classic interior with 500 retrofitted seats will host most of the established Twin Cities dance companies.

CC Executive Director Frank Sonntag compares the Cowles to New York's pre-eminent dance center, the Joyce Theater. He says it's about "elevating dance to the level that's been enjoyed by music and theater." The name 'Cowles' refers to dance's two penultimate Twin Cities patrons, John and Sage Cowles.

Sonntag says, "Above all, dance," as he shows me the sprung wood floor with rubber stoppers every six feet below it, making for protective insulation. From the moment the dancer prepares in one of over 30 dressing rooms until she finishes up her performance and is back in her dressing room to re-don her daily garb back, her feet and joints are protected.

Arena Dance choreographer Matthew Janczewski explains "[for] dancers, jumping up and down on cement and hard surfaces really hurts, so a sprung floor actually prolongs a dancer's career without stressing their ankles and joints. The more you dance on hard surfaces the more your muscles contract and go into protection mode. The sprung floor can also assist in more bounce and getting higher up in the air."

Opening weekend festivities include a ceremonial blessing by the Native Pride Dancers, a galaxy of artists, and a combination of black tie and less formal events.

Sept. 9-11 • Cowles Center for Dance and the Performing Arts, 528 Hennepin Ave. So., Mpls. • (612) 206-3600 • [www.thecowlescenter.org](http://www.thecowlescenter.org)

**Obama Mia!** — For some time the Brave New Workshop has tiptoed too gingerly around offending one side of the aisle over the other. Moreover, until now they've been hesitant to come down too heavily on President Obama. This may have to do with the fact that they've been an all white comedy troupe. However, African American Andy Hilbrands has now joined the team and he's a terrific. Don't worry, they don't resort to Tea Party-style disinformation wackiness but the President's inability to create more jobs is spoofed and that seems fair game indeed. Fear not, he's counterbalanced with Michele Bachmann madness. **Through Oct. 1 • Brave New Workshop, 2605 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. • (612) 332-6620 • [www.bravenewworkshop.com](http://www.bravenewworkshop.com)**



Obama Mia!. Photo by Dani Werner

• **The Ballad of Sexual Dependency** — Nan Goldin's slide show of New York and Boston's hardcore drug scenes is emblematic of the late 1970s to the '90s. Some say she glamorizes grunge and heroin but Goldin unmistakably photographs from the heart. Many of her subjects are/were close friends. Same- and opposite-sex couples, interracial and not, and the children of those photographed, make for a poignant viewing experience. The show's natural nudity and graphic sexuality are relevant to its purpose.. **Through Oct. 16 • Walker Art Center, 1750 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. • (612) 375-7600 • [www.walkerart.org](http://www.walkerart.org)**



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[ THEATER ]



True West. Photo by Tom Sandelands

**True West** — David Mann directs Peter Hansen and John Skelley as brothers Lee and Austin in what's probably Sam Shepard's funniest play. Hansen calls this gritty comedy "a battleground strewn with what it means to be a man. Each brother is incomplete and wants desperately what the other has and what the other seems to be. Hanging over them both is this idealized and impossible vision of the mythic man of the West - tough, independent, successful, resourceful, and dangerous." **Through Sept. 5 • Minneapolis Theater Garage, 711 W. Franklin Ave., Mpls. • (952) 929-9097 • www.torchtheater.com**

[ Theater ]



Photo by Andrejs Pidjass

↓ **Rumors** — Neil Simon's 1988 comedy tapped into public disdain for moneyed privilege in the Reagan Era. Actor Ryan Grimes who plays dinner partner Ken shares "it's about a group of rich couples who make a mountain over a molehill because they obviously have nothing better to do. We laugh at these people for continuing to make mistake after mistake while trying to cover up something that really didn't require any covering up to begin with." **Sept. 9-24 • Sabes Jewish Community Center, 4330 Cedar Lake Rd. So., Mpls. • (612) 396-2025 • www.urbansamurai.org**

[ Dance ] ←

**Tushaanal: Fires of Dry Grass** — Ananya Dance choreographer Ananya Chatterjea has an ingeniously illuminating way of integrating sensual female intimacy with unsettling geopolitical issues like climate change, refugee dislocation, energy justice, and now the gold industry. She calls her latest "quite a queer piece. In exploring gold, we are also exploring systems of value, valuation, how women come to be 'valued' or devalued in terms of 'things' - gold jewelry, material objects that are often used to mark our femininity. This also feeds into our relationships with each other, as women, as they turn out to be relationships of love, intimacy, cruelty, and support." **Sept. 8-11 • Southern Theater, 1420 Washington Ave. So., Mpls. • (800) 838-3006 • www.brownpapertickets.com**



Photo by V. Paul Virtucio

[ Film ] ←


**MNUneearthed: Mondo Collecto** — The monthly MNUneearthed series of independent films by Minnesota filmmakers gets launched with R.P. Whalen's *Mondo Collecto*. Series co-curator Dan Schneidkraut relates that it shows "a guy who collects Pez dispensers because they look like penises, a hippie eccentric who collects 'space', and an exposé on a gentleman who likes to have sexual intercourse with melons." Whalen appeared in the horrific '08 documentary *SNUFF: A Film About Killing on Camera*. Schneidkraut's co-curator is Joe Larsen. **Wed., Sept. 7 • Trylon Microcinema, 3258 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls. • (612) 424-5468 • www.take-up.org**



Photo courtesy of Take-Up



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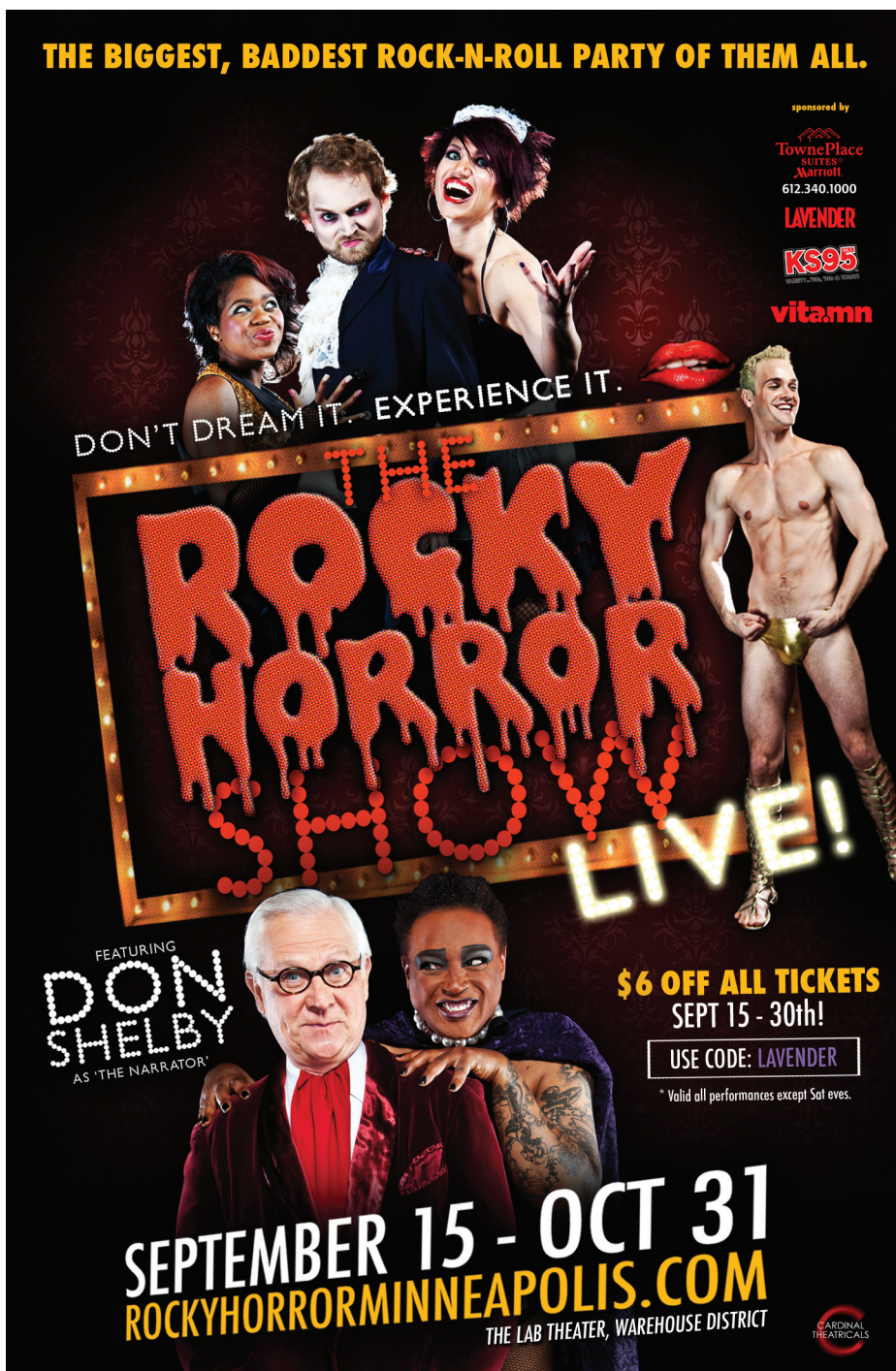
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## Leatherpage.com Returns

ONE THING MODERN media technology has done for the leather/BDSM/fetish community is to increase both the number of voices from the community and the ability of those voices to be heard.

When this column started in 1995 I joined a landscape of leather commentators that included Marcus Hernandez, aka Mr. Marcus, in San Francisco; Jack Rinella in Chicago; and Vern Stewart in Washington, DC Dave Rhodes was writing and publishing *The Leather Journal*, and other writers and columnists appeared in *Drummer Magazine* and *International Leatherman*. Back then, leather discourse was led by those few writers with access to an ink-and-paper pulpit from which to declaim.

Within a few years the landscape had changed, and suddenly anyone with something to say could say it electronically on the World Wide Web. On the leather frontier of

that change was Leatherpage.com, a website run by IML 1996 Joe Gallagher, which gathered the work of many leather thinkers, pundits, and writers (including your humble columnist) and presented it all in one convenient place on the Web.

A few years ago Gallagher suspended the website, but now he has transferred the Leatherpage domain name to San Francisco activist Leland Carina who, with Gallagher's blessing, has restarted and rejuvenated Leatherpage.com.

New publisher Carina is deeply involved in the San Francisco-area leather community. She is a graphic designer at Kink.com and also does a wide variety of volunteer work for various individuals and organizations in and beyond the San Francisco Bay area. She is President of the San Francisco girls of Leather (SFgoL) and serves as Chair of the PR Committee of the San Francisco Bay

Area Leather Alliance. You can see examples of her design, photography and modeling work at lelandcarina.com.

Contributors to the new Leatherpage.com include Leatherati.com, Race Bannon, Sir Hugh (International Leather Sir 2010), Mollena Williams (International Ms Leather 2010), Hobbit (International Ms Leather 2008), Wendell Joost III, Violet Blue, *Instigator Magazine*, *The Leather Journal*, the *Bay Area Review* leather column and, of course, *Lavender Magazine's* Leather Life column. (Carina has been a contributor to Leatherati.com—another leather-commentary website well worth your time—and plans to continue in that role.) The new Leatherpage.com also plans to republish historic posts from the archives of Leatherpage's first era.

So check out the reborn Leatherpage.com (and be sure to add it to your browser bookmarks). ■

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# Hi, Darling.

I REEK OF HAIRSPRAY as I make my entrance into my kitchen. “Jonesy!” Fab-Glam Brandon calls. We embrace. He’s a model. I hate him for his good looks and how easily he gets men. He tells me he plans to move to Chicago, which is of course unacceptable because I need him here to be fabulous with me.

The music is loud, but it’s nine on a Saturday. We have a couple hours before we have to worry about the neighbors complaining. We’re listening to a classical-techno fusion: high in class, heavy in bass: the story of our lives. The air is thick with cologne from a dozen of my closest, most darling friends.

I’m an awful host, so I tell guests to help themselves to the alcohol in the fridge. My roommate, Ty, is better at that stuff—he’s nice enough to actually pour someone a drink. I’m too busy saying hi and hearing about what’s new (which translates into my needing to attend a class on hosting etiquette). At least I’m providing decent vodka.

I make my way outside to talk to the smokers. It’s humid. We have

a huge balcony with a view of the city—a perfect backdrop for risky romantic liaisons, Sunday morning recaps about Saturday night mistakes, and conversation over cocktails.

“Hi, love,” I say and lean in to kiss a familiar face, “Love your outfit. Very, um, Summer in the Hamptons.”

He laughs. He’s Mr. Harvard Graduate, so it fits him. We talk with a couple of friends about the perils of our week, which somehow shifts to what “happiness” really means. Were I a smoker, this would be a flawless moment: stylishly encased in a cloud of tobacco fog, watching the sparkle of downtown, debating life with friends. I’d use my cigarette hand to emphasize critical points.

The night’s just begun, and will unfold over the next 9 hours—it will end as the sun rises— and in those 9 hours, I will greet friends and acquaintances (and a few strangers) as we navigate the city’s nightlife. I’ll have many more alcohol-induced conversations that are too deep. And I’ll love every fucking minute of it. ■

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# CAFÉ LEVAIN

UNFORTUNATELY, SUMMER IS considered the slow season for Minnesotan restaurants. It's ironic for such a produce-rich state, but backyard grills and picnics can be understandably more enticing for the cabin-fevered and winter-weary than a dimly-lit dining room. I hadn't been to Café Levain in a few years, but once I heard Adam Vickerman was back—and now, as its Executive Chef—I couldn't wait to return. While I suspect that at a few other restaurants, summer menus aren't always taken as seriously as their fall and winter selection, this season's menu at Levain is truly a revelation.

We started our evening with a refreshing glass of off-menu (at least, at time of press) Prosecco, flush with notes of tart green apple. When I'm off the clock (and on a budget), I am often tempted to skip the ever-important aperitif. I believe, however, that if one had to choose between dessert and a pre-dinner cocktail or sparkling wine, opt for the latter. An aperitif instantly changes the mood of the evening, and everything that follows it feels decidedly more festive and satisfying.

As our starters arrived, we moved to a dry, food-friendly Pine Ridge Chenin Blanc/Viognier blend (\$10/39). The wine list at Levain is relatively simple, but changes often and coordinates perfectly with Vickerman's intricate fare. This little blend, for example, brought out the buttermilk/beet vinaigrette in the Bibb Lettuce Salad (\$9), rendering even the lightly-dressed salad exquisitely flavorful. Indeed, diced, de-seeded cucumbers, garden strawberries, radishes and a dab of goat cheese make this the best summer salad I have had in quite some time, if not to-date. Additionally, the plate is topped with rich brioche croutons that are just *ever-so-slightly* sweet for an added bit of texture and playfulness.

However, the Sweet Corn Soup with pork belly, curry, coconut, basil and kohlrabi is the darling dish that made me change my mind entirely about ho-hum summer dining. No more will I fantasize about fall's roasted root vegetables and red meat—at least exclusively. Now, visions of crunchy, peppery, fresh garden vegetables in a creamy broth will also dance in my head. This soup could easily have been a little too hot 'n heavy, but a bit of spice, a careful dice and a deft hand prevailed:







(Facing page) Bibb Lettuce Salad. (This page, clockwise) Grilled Hanger Steak; Sweet Corn Soup with pork belly; Pecan Shortbread with apricot puree. Photos by Mike Hnida



it's a masterpiece. The Sweet Corn Soup, as well as our entrées, were actually part of the special "Sunday Suppers" menu, where Levain diners can enjoy a three-course meal for a low, fixed price. If you see the soup on the Sunday menu or any other, strongly consider structuring your dinner to accommodate it.

Levain has its own garden, and Vickerman uses this hidden strength to full advantage in every dish on the menu. Perhaps it is this single attribute that allows the kitchen to elevate their summer cuisine so. Or perhaps it is simply that Vickerman delights in robust flavors and complexity, and he doesn't play it safe. I can't wait to see what he has in store for fall.

As we transitioned to our entrées—the Wild Red King Salmon and the Grilled Hanger Steak, our server arrives with a zesty, berry-scented Nine Vines Rosé (\$8.50). Both salmon and steak were incredibly moist, and served atop a bed of succulent cannellini bean and baby potato ragout, with tomatoes, garden-fresh herbs and roasted fig. If the specials somehow fail to hold your attention, Levain's regular entrees also include vegetari-

an selections, and are very reasonably priced, with most under \$25.

For dessert, our *prix fixe* menu choice was Pecan Shortbread with apricot puree, apricot granita, and marinated apricots—an unexpected and unique delight. With the buttery shortbread, we round out the evening with a glass of Chambers Rosewood Muscat. While I often find dessert wines too sweet for my taste, this Muscat mitigates sweet cherries with a hint of tea on the finish.

Café Levain has experimented with some outdoor seating, and has found even sidewalk dining to be a resounding success. However, if its summer clients will deign to venture inside, even its darker, masculine interior, with quirky accents and open kitchen, lends itself to a relaxing, escapist experience. To make a reservation, or to follow Chef Vickerman's blog, visit [www.cafelevain.com](http://www.cafelevain.com). ◻

#### **Café Levain**

4762 Chicago Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407  
(612) 823-7111  
[www.cafelevain.com](http://www.cafelevain.com)



# Wanda Wisdom's State Fair Food Finder

MINNESOTA STATE  
**FAIRY**

YOUR UNOFFICIAL MINNESOTA STATE FAIRY, Wanda Wisdom, has marked the map with her favorite food finds at this year's fair. Think you can match her world record mouth by sampling each of the sinful snacks on her list? Let us know!

## PRONTO PUP

Pronto Pups (L-27)

The classic on-a-stick, deep-fried meat treat is the perfect way to alert my system that my annual state fair food binge is yet again about to begin. I always want two, but there's precious stomach space to protect. Ketchup, a couple bites and it's on to the next stop!

## HUGE BACON ON A STICK

Big Fat Bacon (N-27)

Hi, my name is Wanda and I'm a bacon junkie. If I could snort bacon, I probably would. Until that eventuality, I'm stuck with perhaps one of the bestest bacon treats in all the universe: GIANT BACON ON A STICK! 'nuf said.

## DEEP FRIED MILKY WAY

Deep Fried Candy Bars (Q-26)

The best way to cleanse the palate after a stint of salty snacks is with a little something sweet. Ok, a big something sweet. A big something sweet on a stick and deep-fried. Preferably with lots of chocolate and caramel swimming inside.

## CHEESE CURDS

Mouth Trap Cheese Curds (T-26)

Other than the pronto pup, deep-fried cheese curds are, arguably, the quintessential state fair snack food. I never had deep-fried cheese before moving to Minnesota. It seemed excessive, irrational and totally . And that's exactly why I still get them every year.

## ROAST CORN ON THE COB

Corn Roast (P-24)

The salty sweet, big buttery bounty of roast corn on the cob always makes my stomach smile. And lips pucker. I always over-salt my cob. Sounds like a personal problem, doesn't it? Thank god for the thirst-quenching qualities of fresh-squeezed lemonade.

## CHICKEN-FRIED BACON

Giggle's Campfire Grill (V-12)

As a registered bacon fiend, it's hard to believe I haven't yet tried this southern-sounding pork product. In my fair food frenzy last year, I completely forgot to check this off my list. This year, you can be sure I'll be chowing down on a hefty helping.

## TURKEY LEG

Turkey to Go (M-29)

Only thing better than a chicken leg is a turkey leg. Have you ever seen a drag queen try to eat a turkey leg before? Trust me when I tell you I can get every piece of meat off the bone without messing up my makeup. I still think I should get a blue ribbon for this feat.

## CARAMEL MALT

Dairy Goodness Bar (R-31)

I usually save my absolute food fav for last. There's no better way to cap off another successful fair food blowout than with a rich, creamy caramel malt from the Dairy Goodness Bar. Best of all you can beat the heat and peruse the butter sculptures in the Dairy Barn while you suck down your bovine bliss.

## CHOCOLATE COVERED JALAPENO PEPPERS

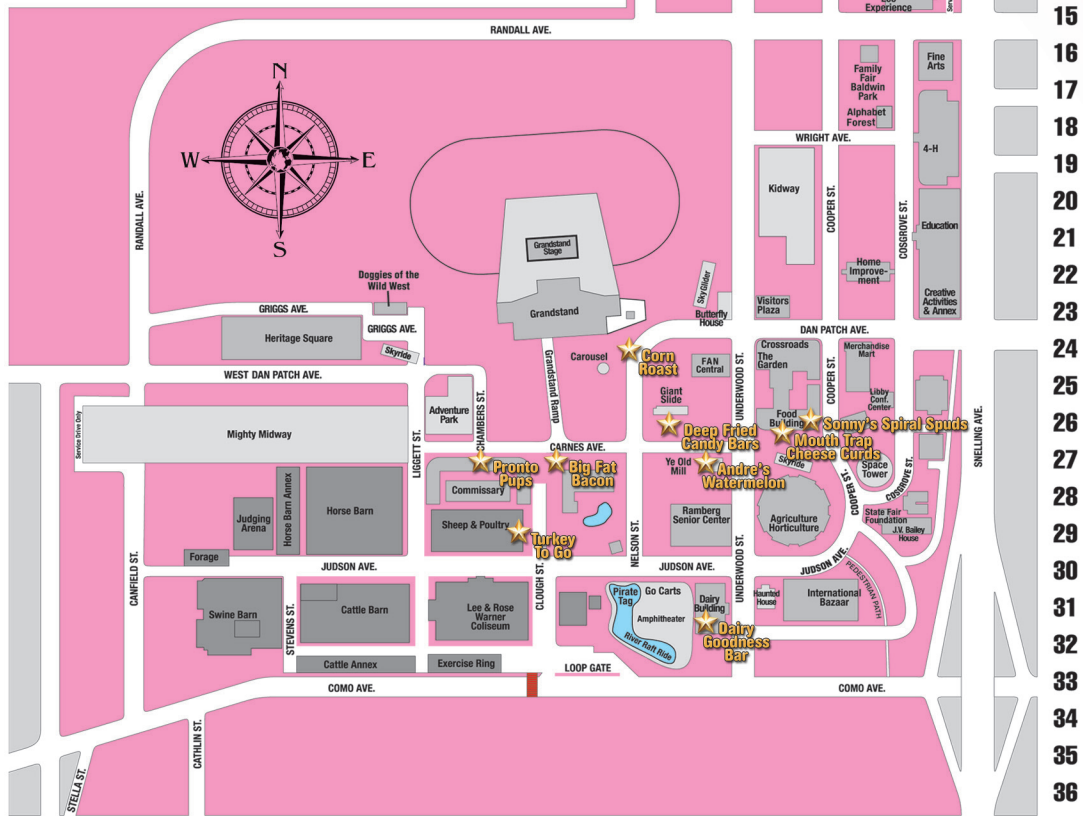
Andre's Watermelon (R-27)

This is one new fair food find I've yet to feast on, but you better believe I'll be sampling it straight away. I have a feeling this is going to be really good or a totally bomb. As in gut bomb. Stay tuned.

## DEEP-FRIED CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE DOUGH

Sonny's Spiral Spuds (T-26)

Here's another new fair food find for 2011 I'm looking forward to checking off my list. I was not a fan of the deep-fried Twinkie, but the thought of gooey cookie dough wrapped in a deep-fried pillow sounds almost too good to be true. I only hope there's some melted chocolate for dipping.



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ON COOL SUMMER days, Duluth's mystique draws you closer to the lake. The steep hills spilling onto the rocky shoreline inspired architects to create amazing homes in the heyday of Duluth's business class. One such architectural wonder is the Olcott House on Duluth's historic East End. Built for a mining magnate in 1904, this Georgian colonial mansion is just the right place to watch the end of summer unfold when the 25th annual Duluth Pride takes over Labor Day Weekend.

Proprietor David Vipond and his partner, Jerry, happened upon the old house on a vacation five years ago. Visiting from Los Angeles, they were drawn to the grand home and the idea of running a bed and breakfast. "It's something I always wanted to do," says Vipond. With a background in marketing, advertising, and event planning, he set out to create an unsurpassed lodging experience as Duluth's only gay-owned B&B (there are six other lovely bed and breakfasts in town, all part of the Historic Inns of Duluth, where David serves on the board).

The home boasts five suites and there's a larger suite in the carriage house. Each room is tastefully decorated with a collection of period antiques and comfortable furniture. This is not your grandma's doily-filled attic, but a clean-lined colonial revival of white enamel and mahogany furniture. Guests are encouraged to explore the house and use the gracious rooms—even to play the grand piano in the music room.

At Olcott House, the famous candlelight breakfast is its specialty. A rotating menu of breakfast favorites, depending on the crowd, keeps everyone nourished for a day of adventure in Duluth. Guests who arrive around the cocktail hour are greeted with wine, lemonade, and hors d'oeuvres, a lovely light snack before returning to the sights of the Twin Ports.

A bed and breakfast is a more intimate experience than staying at a hotel for the weekend, not to mention much more interesting. A B & B is usually a small operation run by its owners, incorporating their personal tastes and standards of operation. The code of conduct for guests at a B & B lies somewhere between hotel lodging and staying in a friend's home for the weekend. Here are a few simple steps to make sure your visit to a B & B goes perfectly:

- **Book, cancel and rearrange your schedule far in advance.** Understand the cancellation policies and you'll be fine. When booking, remember that B & Bs don't have 24-hour call centers; call during business hours (your host needs to rest, too!). Ask for directions, dress code (if any), restaurants, upcoming events, etc., in advance. Tell your hosts of any special needs and occasions. Most B & Bs are on top of this; few will fail to accommodate your needs if notified in advance.
- **Divulge your allergies and food preferences.** Gluten-free, no shellfish, vegetarian—whatever they may be—giving your hosts notice





Photos courtesy of Olcott House



allows them to easily meet your needs. Respect check-in and check-out times. Proprietors often do the work that several people might do in a hotel, so their time is valuable—and limited.

• **“Please be on time to meals, everyone else will be,” says Vipond.** Give your hosts feedback. They’re here to make your stay the best possible. If they’re doing everything right, let them know!

#### Olcott House Bed & Breakfast

2316 East 1st Street  
Duluth, MN 55812  
218-728-1339  
[www.olcouthouse.com](http://www.olcouthouse.com)

To find the associated B & Bs in Duluth, visit [www.duluthbandb.com](http://www.duluthbandb.com).

To find other gay-friendly bed and breakfasts on all your travels, domestic and foreign, check out [www.purple.roofs.com](http://www.purple.roofs.com).

## MAKE IT AT HOME

Try this signature breakfast item served at the Olcott House for your next large brunch gathering.

### Sausage & Spinach Strata with Smoked Gouda Cheese

Serves 12-15. Prep time 30 minutes. Rest period 8 hours. Bake time 1 hour, 15 minutes.

#### Ingredients

1-1/2 pounds sausage  
16 slices sturdy bread (1 loaf homemade bread), remove crust, cut into 1/2-inch cubes  
16 oz frozen cut leaf spinach, thawed and squeezed to remove excess liquid  
1-1/2 pounds Monterey Jack cheese, grated (3 packages)

1/3 to 1/2 pound smoked Gouda cheese, rind removed and grated  
8 large eggs, beaten lightly  
3 cups milk (skim is fine)  
1 teaspoon salt  
pinch cayenne  
2 tablespoons mustard  
1 teaspoon Worcestershire

#### Directions

Brown sausage and drain thoroughly. Microwave spinach with a little water for 5 minutes on high. Divide bread and Monterey Jack cheese into thirds. Put one-third bread cubes on bottom of a 9 x 13 glass baking dish (Le Creuset Stoneware works even better). Sprinkle a third of the Monterey Jack cheese and half the smoked Gouda over the bread cubes. Arrange half the sausage and half the spinach on top of the cheeses. Repeat with another third of the bread cubes and Monterey Jack and the remaining Gouda, sausage and cheese. Top with the last third of the bread cubes and Monterey Jack. Combine eggs, milk, salt, cayenne, mustard and Worcestershire in a bowl, then pour over the assembled strata. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Let the strata stand at room temperature for 45 minutes before baking. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place dish in a water bath, with water halfway up the side of the dish (a large roasting pan works for this).

Bake 1 hour and 15 minutes. Let rest for 5 minutes before cutting and serving.





OUT  
ON THE TOWN

# AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

CALENDAR



*Rumors.* Photo by Andrejs Pidjass

Cowles Center  
Weekend Celeb

25

26

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## THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

**Junkyard Theater presents "Spell No. 2"** Aug 25 – 27 • Thurs/7 PM, Fri & Sat/10 PM • Tickets \$15/door or \$12/in advance or with Fringe button • Bryant-Lake Bowl Theater, Uptown Mpls • For tickets or more info, call 612-825-8949 or [www.bryantlakebowl.com](http://www.bryantlakebowl.com) or [www.junkyardtheater.com](http://www.junkyardtheater.com)

**Bawdy Blue – A Burlesque Revue** Aug 25 • Doors/9 PM, Show/9:30 PM • No cover, but tips are encouraged! • The Driftwood Char-Bar, 4415 Nicollet Ave., Mpls • For more info, call 320-760-3731 or email [bawdyblue@gmail.com](mailto:bawdyblue@gmail.com)

**Gallery Talk for Fairs, Circuses and All Things Fun: Selections from the Minnesota Museum of American Art** Curator talks on Aug 25 from 5 – 6 PM, Aug 31 from 5 – 6 PM and Sept 2 from 1 – 2 PM • Exhibition open daily from 9 AM – 8 PM • J.V. Bailey House, Minnesota State Fair • For more info, call 651-797-4057 or email [Jessari.Kuppe@jkupe.org](mailto:Jessari.Kuppe@jkupe.org)

**Patrick's Cabaret presents "Elements in Translation" Curated by Arturo Miles** Aug 25 – 27 • 8 PM • Tickets \$8 pre-sale if purchased from an artist, \$10 at door • Patrick's Cabaret, 3010 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls • For more info, call 612-724-6273 or visit [www.patrickscabaret.org](http://www.patrickscabaret.org)

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

**Jungle Theater presents "Hamlet"** Aug 26 – Oct 9 • Tickets \$10 – \$35 • The Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls • For more info or tickets, call 612-822-7063 or visit [www.jungletheater.com](http://www.jungletheater.com)

**Minnesota Lynx Home Game** Aug 26 • 7 PM • Lynx vs. silver Stars • Target Center, Mpls • For more info or tickets, visit [www.wnba.com/lynx](http://www.wnba.com/lynx)

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

**LaCrosse Pride** Aug 27 • LaCrosse, WI • [www.7riverslgbt.org/lacrossepride](http://www.7riverslgbt.org/lacrossepride)

**LoLa Art Crawl 2011** Aug 27 – 28 • 10 AM – 5 PM • Longfellow Neighborhood, Minneapolis • For more info, including maps & artists, visit [www.lolaart-crawl.com](http://www.lolaart-crawl.com)

## MONDAY, AUGUST 29

**2011 North American Gay Amateur Athletic Softball World Series** Aug 29 – Sept 3 • For more info, visit [www.nagaasoftball.org](http://www.nagaasoftball.org)

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 30

**Minnesota Lynx Home Game** Aug 30 • 7 PM • Lynx vs. Mystics • Target Center, Mpls • For more info or tickets, visit [www.wnba.com/lynx](http://www.wnba.com/lynx)

**Animal Humane Society Fundraiser – 50 Haircuts in 50 States in 50 Days: Get Clipped For a Great Cause!** Aug 30 • Approximately 9 AM – 9 PM • Jungle Red Salon, 1362 LaSalle Ave., Mpls • Call 612-870-0653 to get to be one of the lucky 50 to take part. [www.animalhumanesociety.org/news/get-haircut-help-animal-50-states-tour-com-ing-twin-cities](http://www.animalhumanesociety.org/news/get-haircut-help-animal-50-states-tour-com-ing-twin-cities)

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

**Bryant-Lake Bowl presents "Pleasure Rebel: Queer Performances"** Aug 31 • Door/7 PM, Performance begins/8 PM • Tickets \$8 – \$15, pay what you can • Bryant-Lake Bowl, 810 W. Lake St., Mpls • For tickets or more info, call 612-825-8949 or visit [www.bryantlakebowl.com](http://www.bryantlakebowl.com)

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

**Duluth/Superior Pride** Sept 1 – 4 • Duluth, MN • [www.dspride.com](http://www.dspride.com)

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

**Minnesota Lynx Home Game** Sept 2 • 7 PM • Lynx vs. Liberty • Target Center, Mpls • For tickets or more info, visit [www.wnba.com/lynx](http://www.wnba.com/lynx)

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

**Unity Christ Church – "Unity, Metaphysics, and the Beatles"** Sept 4, 11, 18 and 25 • 9 AM and 11 AM services • Unity Christ Church, 4000 Golden Valley Rd., Golden Valley, MN • For more info, call 763-521-4793 or visit [www.unitychrist-church.org](http://www.unitychrist-church.org)

**FooFoo ChooChoo – Duluth/Superior Pride** Sept 4 • Departs 3:30 PM • Tickets \$30/Adults, \$15/Kids • Depot area, Duluth, MN • For more info or tickets, visit [www.dspride.com](http://www.dspride.com)

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

**Minnesota Lynx Home Game** Sept 8 • 7 PM • Lynx vs. Sky • Target Center, Mpls • For tickets or more info, visit [www.wnba.com/lynx](http://www.wnba.com/lynx)





ter Opening  
celebration



Minnesota Lynx  
Photo by Sophia Hantzes



Obama Mia!  
Photo by Dani Werner

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

**Fashion's Night Out 2011** Sept 8 • 6 – 10 PM • Galleria, 3510 W. 70th St., Edina • For more info, visit [www.galleriaedina.com](http://www.galleriaedina.com)

**University of Minnesota School of Music presents *The World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra*** Sept 8 • 7:30 PM • Tickets \$34/\$29 • Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Mpls • For tickets or more info, call 612-624-2345 or visit [www.tickets.umn.edu](http://www.tickets.umn.edu)

**Second Annual Gala In the Garden** Sept 8 • 7 – 10 PM • Greater Frogtown Community Development Corporation, 533 N. Dale St., St. Paul • For tickets or more info, call 651-789-7400 or visit [www.greaterfrogtowncdc.org](http://www.greaterfrogtowncdc.org)

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

**Oktoberfest on the Minneapolis Riverfront** Sept 9 – 11 • Fri/4 – 10 PM, Sat/11 AM – 10 PM, Sun/noon – 6 PM • Minneapolis Riverfront, near St. Anthony Main and River Place • [www.minneapolisoktoberfest.com](http://www.minneapolisoktoberfest.com)

**Mankato Pridefest 2011** Sept 9 – 10 • All events rain or shine • Riverfront Park, Mankato, MN • No pets allowed, as Mankato doesn't allow pets at Mankato Parks • For more info, directions and a complete list of activities, visit us at [www.scmnpide.org](http://www.scmnpide.org)

**Concrete and Grass – Lowertown Music Festival** Sept 9 – 11 • Mears Park, St. Paul, MN • For a full listing of times, as well as performers, visit [www.concreteandgrass.com](http://www.concreteandgrass.com)

#### ONGOING

**Nina Bliese Gallery presents Nanci Yermakoff – Transparent Spaces** Through Sept 9 • Gallery hours Tues – Fri/Noon – 4 PM, or by appointment • Nina Bliese Gallery, 225 S. 6th St., Ground Floor, Mpls • For more info, call 612-332-2978 or visit [www.ninabliesegallery.com](http://www.ninabliesegallery.com)

**Intermedia Arts and Grupo Soap del Corazon present “El Milagro”** Through Sept 11 • Gallery hours Mon – Fri/10 AM – 6 PM, Sat/12 – 5 PM • Suggested \$3 donation • Intermedia Arts, 2822 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls • [www.intermediaarts.org](http://www.intermediaarts.org)

**“Shades of Red: The Evolution of Early Soviet Art”** Through Sept 15 • The Museum of Russian Art, 5500 Stevens Ave. S., Mpls • Hours are Mon – Fri 10 AM to 5 PM, Sat 10 AM – 4 PM and Sun 1 – 5 PM • Admission is \$7/Adults • [www.tmora.org](http://www.tmora.org)

**Hennes Art Company presents “Abstract Expressionism – The AB EX Show”** Through Sept 30 • Gallery Hours Mon – Sat/10 AM – 5 PM • Hennes Art Company, 1607 Hennepin Ave., Mpls • For more info, call 612-436-2077 or visit [www.hennesart.com](http://www.hennesart.com)

**Brave New Workshop presents “Obama Mia: or The Real Housewives of Abbottabad”** Through Oct 1 • Thurs/8 PM/\$26, Fri/8 PM/\$29, Sat/7PM/\$29, Sat/10 PM/\$27 • The Brave New Workshop Theatre, 2605 Hennepin Ave. S., Mpls • For tickets, call 612-332-6620 or visit [www.bravenewworkshop.com](http://www.bravenewworkshop.com)

#### Renaissance Festival

Weekends through Oct 3 • Shakopee, MN • For more info, visit [www.renaissancefest.com](http://www.renaissancefest.com)

**Minnesota Museum of American Arts presents “Our Treasures: Highlights From the Minnesota Museum of American Art”** Through Oct 23 (Tweed exhibition), Aug 2011 – July 2012 general • Tweed hours are Tues/9 AM – 8 PM, Wed – Fri/9 AM – 4:30 PM, Sat – Sun/1 – 5 PM • Tweed Museum of Art, Duluth • For more info about exhibition, visit [www.d.umn.edu/tma](http://www.d.umn.edu/tma) or email Jessari Kuppe at [jkuppe@mmaa.org](mailto:jkuppe@mmaa.org) or 651-797-4057 • [www.mmaa.org](http://www.mmaa.org)



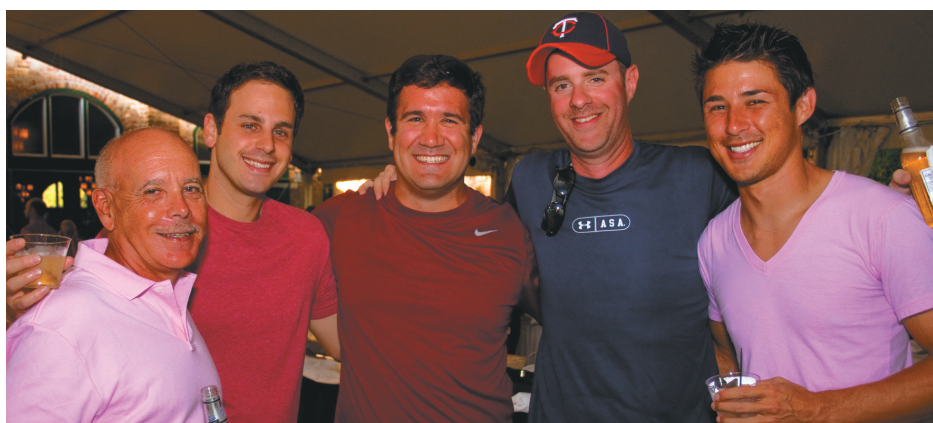
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# TWIN CITIES GOODTIME SOFTBALL LEAGUE

## 2011 AWARDS BANQUET

### AUGUST 7





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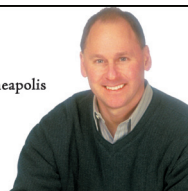


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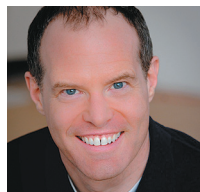
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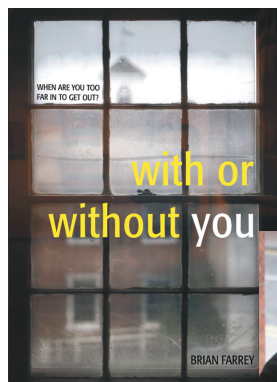


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### Rainbow Bowling

**Rainbow Bowling League** is a USBC sanctioned, diverse, friendly league consisting of 30 teams that meet on Wednesday nights at 7:30pm at Memory Lanes in Minneapolis. The 2011-2012 bowling season is 28 weeks long beginning September 7th. If interested in bowling on a team as a full-time bowler or as a league sub, please email the League Secretary at [rainbowleaguesecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:rainbowleaguesecretary@yahoo.com) for more information.



Book by Brian Farrey (above) and featured author, David Levithan (right).



### Loft Literary Center

**SECOND STORY READING SERIES** at The Loft Literary Center is hosting an exciting event focused on LGBT Young Adult literature—with several area YA novelists and an esteemed visitor, author David Levithan. A panel discussion with several LGBT authors (moderated by KFAI Radio's Charlotte Sullivan) will be followed by a reading by the amazing David Levithan and debut author Brian Farrey. A reception and book signing will end the evening. Saturday, September 17, 2011, at 7:00pm at The Loft Literary Center, 1011 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis.

## BUSINESS PROFILE | by Heidi Fellner



Michael Swanke. Photo by Mike Hnida

## Swanke Design

IF YOU'VE EVER found yourself in the middle of an extensive remodeling project, you may be quite familiar with playing go-between for your contractor and designer. It's more than just an uncomfortable and stressful place to be: having a separate designer and contractor actually can slow the entire process down. "If you hire a designer to do the work...then what you do is find a contractor who is going to build that work. Then, there's a lag time when you have to do a bid process," states Michael Swanke, owner of Swanke Design. Moreover, architects may have a spectacular vision, but they can often underestimate the costs associated with making that same vision a reality. Even with an extremely talented architect on-board, that single limitation can land a homeowner with a nasty surprise on their final bill.

Swanke wanted to make the entire process more comfortable and efficient for homeowners, and was inspired to start his own Design-Build firm. "It's creating a single-source entity from concept through completion," Swanke begins. "I'll sit down with the client, listen to their dream, turn it into a plan, work with them through the bid process, and then through construction and completion. It's a seamless delivery system." It sounds revolutionary; however Swanke explains that the single-source concept was how the great pyramids at Giza were achieved, along with the rest of the ancient Wonders of the World. And like the master builders of old, Swanke is not just a

glorified builder who designs: Swanke considers himself a designer who builds. He brings thirteen years of architecture and construction experience to his company, which can facilitate anything from new construction to restoration projects—even custom furnishings.

In addition to simplifying the process, one of Swanke's passions is environmentally-friendly construction. "I'm a member of Minnesota GreenStar, but I'm not being green just for the sake of being green. It's cost-effective, and it provides a cleaner home," he declares. Inspired by his own home, a 1928 craftsman bungalow in southwestern Minneapolis, Swanke also has a special place in his heart for a smaller, energy-efficient home, rejecting the usual "bigger is better" mentality. "I'll always try to re-use an existing space or try to capture space before adding on," he concludes.

A portfolio of Swanke's diverse work can be found on his company's website; though Swanke often focuses on the southwest Minneapolis area, his company performs work throughout the greater Twin Cities. For more information, or to set up an in-home consultation, call 612-810-2848 or visit [swankedesign.com](http://swankedesign.com). □

**Name of Company:** Swanke Design + Build, LLC

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# My Mother, the Monster

MY MOTHER WANTS me to kill all the chipmunks in my yard.

My mother is a monster.

"I don't give a damn that they're cute," she yelled at me from my back deck. "Kill them all."

"But they're my friends," I said, tossing sunflower seeds to a small gang of chipmunks.

"They're terrorists," she said. "Get rid of them." I live in a woodsy community and my yard is filled with wildlife. My mother doesn't approve of any wildlife, except for ladybugs, which she gives a pass to because they share so many traits. On the surface, ladybugs and my mother are coolly elegant and cultured. But their good manners simply mask their vicious brand of practicality. Ladybugs eat aphids and other garden pests. My mother eats her own.

My parents drove up for the day to help me plant my garden. My mother is a master gardener whose life work has been transforming her yard into a mini-Tivoli. By contrast, I kill any plant unlucky enough to find its way into my yard. It's not that I don't have a green thumb. It's just that I can't be bothered to water, weed, or fertilize. I manage to take care of myself on a subsistence level.

Why can't plants do the same? I give them a place to live. What more do they want from me?

Our gardening skills are just one of the many things that differentiate me from my mother. She's willowy, blonde and blue-eyed, and I look like I just hopped off the boat (steerage class) from Sicily. She's obsessed with fashion, and I wish I had a job that required me to wear a uniform so I didn't have to decide what to wear every day. My mother dressed me until I was a sophomore in high school. She still rues the day she lost control of my wardrobe.

And, so, it shocked the hell out of me when my mother announced that we're exactly alike.

Here's how it happened. We were in my backyard, arguing about my dirt.

"And here's another thing you don't want to hear," she said. She prefaces most of her statements this way since everything she says is some type of criticism about how I live my life or the sorry condition of my hair. "Your dirt is terrible. Simply terrible."

I looked down at the dirt in the flowerbed, which did look a bit anemic. But there was no way in hell I was going to concede that to her. I do not believe in appeasing my

mother. It only encourages her.

"There's nothing wrong with my dirt," I said, defensively. Just as I was debating whether to storm into the house in protest, I heard someone call out to me from the driveway.

It was a candidate for my Congressional District. He walked into the backyard and handed me his literature. I glanced at it and saw the words "Conservative Republican" and "Family Values" blaring from the front of the flyer.

"Get the hell out of my yard," I said, shooing him away with pruning shears.

My mother leaned back in her deck chair and smiled smugly. Although my mother has rather shocking views on the death penalty and welfare reform, she's been unwaveringly supportive of the gays and considers right-wingers morons.

"Here's something else you don't want to hear," she said. "You've done everything possible not to be like me, but you've failed. We're exactly alike. Neither one of us will tolerate pests in our yard."

"Well, don't get your hopes up about the chipmunks," I said. "They're staying." ■

TROLIN, UN DIABLITO ROSA

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I see that you are twisted-minded reader.



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### Dear Ms. Behavior:

Everyone has one ex they still think about, right? I'm not obsessed with mine, but mostly I regret that we didn't end up at least being friends. Kris was smart, interesting, and very funny. Our chemistry was strong but we weren't together long, mainly because of bad timing: I was involved in a sticky breakup and there was a period of overlap before it was over. I told Kris from the beginning that I was too raw for a serious relationship and needed some time, but she didn't understand why I couldn't jump right out of the relationship I was in and into one with her. Ultimately, it all blew up into a big dramatic mess with the woman I was with, and Kris also felt that I'd made promises to her that I didn't keep. She was hurt and I felt bad about it, so even though I broke up with girlfriend # 1, it soon seemed too complicated to remain friends with Kris.

Seven years have passed and I've happily

settled with another partner. A few weeks ago, I saw Kris from a distance in a public place. I didn't approach her, but I later sent an email apologizing for my having cut off from her during our breakup. I also said that I hope we can some day be friends. She wrote back a harsh note about how our whole relationship was a joke and I wasn't ever available, and she was never really in love with me anyway.

That hurt my feelings and I also know that it wasn't true. I've composed many more letters in my head, but I don't know if I should actually send them. I'd like to write back and acknowledge that she's right that I wasn't available to be in a relationship at the time, but now I'm available to be friends. (What is there to lose?) Should I also argue with her statement that she was never really in love with me? I know she was. Or should I try to let it go and forget the whole thing?

—SHOULD I OR SHOULDN'T I?

### Dear Should I or Shouldn't I?

Look deep inside for a moment, please. You say you're "happily settled" with your current partner, but what if you're actually bored? What if you harbor a secret wish—hidden from even yourself—to stir things up with Kris? It's easy to reawaken dormant chemistry, especially if Kris is as smart and funny as you remember.

Here are some clues to the fact that you may be off-kilter here: First, Why do you care that Kris says she was never in love with you? If you just want to be friends, why does it matter how she felt about you back then?

Next, historically speaking, it sounds like you like to triangulate. So if you don't want to end up creating a whirlwind of drama, at least pay attention and be conscious of your choice. Make a decision about your level of commitment to your current relationship and honor whatever that is. If you want to



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leave, that's fine, but make a decision; don't just blow things up again.

Also—unless you're a polyamorist in a relationship with another practiced polyamorist—here's some advice that will probably be useful to you in the future: If you want someone you're dating to believe that you're not available, you must align your actions with your words. Think of it this way: What would you think if your girlfriend were to tell you that she's not actually available while she had her hand inside you? Okay, so maybe the timing would be slightly better and she'd disclose her unavailability slightly before or after the act, but either way, if you're both female, this type of behavior can produce cognitive dissonance. Especially if she looks into your eyes (or your vulva) and tells you that she loves you, but then somewhere between 10 minutes and 24 hours later, tells you that she's not ready for a relationship.

Which reminds me, I'd be remiss if I didn't at least make the occasional corrective attempt more general: Lesbians, please

align your actions with your words. Yes, yes, you've given all the protective warnings that that exist in this land: "We are just friends who have sex. In fact, we are Fuck Buddies! We won't get emotionally attached!" Blah blah blah blah. But in reality, you are made of flesh. Lesbian flesh at that. So don't go jumping in front of a train and thinking you will bounce off of it like a rubber duckie. You're gonna get squashed.

Your honesty won't make her see you as "damaged and gross." It will more likely make her feel tender toward you.

Ms. Behavior doesn't think she needs to tell you not to fake any more orgasms, but it will also help if you make it a practice to not lie about anything. In fact, if your girlfriend asks you if you like her hideous new shoes, say, "No, I think they're hideous." If she asks if her snoring awakened you, don't pretend it didn't. If you're lucky enough to have found The One, don't blow it. Be kind and clear and truthful, and she'll probably insist on staying with you forever. □

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# Dancing in Neverland

## What Happened to Pretend?

SOMETIMES IT FEELS as if we live in a patchwork—in lives stitched together by a thousand pockets protecting a thousand shades of who we are. Memories and old friends fill one, and this pocket we call Nostalgia. Ambition and excitement lives in another; this, we call Hope.

Some pockets slip away with time and, among the forgotten, we find the one filled with fantasy: in this pocket, we find Neverland...

"Pretend I'm a wizard and you're looking for the Sword of Ever, and—"

"That's dumb, Justin. The 'Sword of Ever' is a DUMB name, Justin Lee Jones," C.J. interrupts me with the twangy full-name-I'm-serious southern tradition. He's my best friend. We're 9 years old.

"ANYWAYS," I brush off his ridiculous criticism, "I'm a wizard with a pointy hat and I'm wearing all blue with gold moons and stars all over and I have a wand that is gold and it has a star on the end of it. But it isn't a girl star. Also, my robe is made of velvet, and the stars are shiny."

C.J.'s eyes glaze over as they usually do during my wardrobe descriptions.

"C.J.! Play right or I'm not gonna be your friend anymore."

"OK, but I get to pick everything next time."

C.J. and I play Wizard for the next three hours. Our quest: Retrieve the Sword of Ever from the clutches of the Grand High Witch in the Winter Forest.

The Casual Observer would call C.J. and me "welfare children." They'd see us running around a government-subsidized apartment community with a broken toy dagger, screaming in agony about our lot in life. The Casual Observer can't see the thousand-foot tall diamond trees that we do, or the giant ice castles hidden in the bushes. They don't smell the Bewitching Flowers used to entrance enemy soldiers. They don't know that our screams are calls to unleash the Bright Monsters—the Monsters that will come to defeat our Witch.

That's because the Casual Observers are Grownups: those who seek truth rather than possibility. Those who have forgotten Neverland.

Think now to your childhood. Think to a time when your favorite toys weren't the ones in your room, but the ones in your head. Think to a time when the world was your playground—when no surface, no tree, no stair, no cardboard box was immune from your imagination. When mounds of sand became castles. These were the most enchanting days of our lives. Nothing was what it seemed, and the grownups were always too foolish to see it.

Back then, we were the ultimate visionaries, the ultimate purveyors of *Carpé Diem*. We were explosive little monsters pretending to be everything but.

A day would come, though, when the impossible occurred: the day we grew up—the day we said never would happen. On this

day, we folded up our intricate imaginations and tucked them away from the world, for fear of ridicule and rejection. "Pretend" became "reality."

We've since forgotten Neverland. Maybe that's what's wrong with the world—why kids can befriend one another with no pretense or judgment while we, the grownups, view cynically our peers' ambitions and lock away our hearts so we're never too disappointed. But just because we let the fantasy slip away doesn't mean it disappeared. It's still alive—still tucked away into that patchwork pocket, waiting to enchant us once again. All we need to do is to see Possibility—to replace pretense with play and fears of rejection with hope. Only then will we return to Neverland.

Neverland. The place where nobody grows up. Where nobody stops pretending. A self-sufficient place, still. A place still burdened with chores, yes, but a place where chores are a means to an end—not a way of life. Here, there is but one rule: do not see things for what they are—see things for what they can become.

The last time I played with C.J. was when we were 11 years old. Neither of us is sure why we stopped then, but both of us are certain that we wish we hadn't...

Come away with me, then, to a place we've been before. Let's go Dancing in Neverland. □

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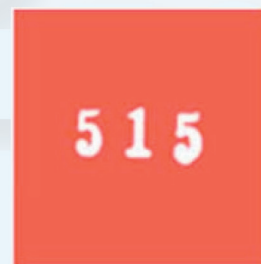
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